Kenfig's festival queen. (SEE PAGE 18).

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Weekly audited distribution (52 weeks) to 31/12/12 - **42,492** (GEM Series). Audited by David Pinder & Co Ltd. Chartered Accountants.

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THURSDAY, JULY 4TH, 2013

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ROYAL WALKABOUT IN PORTHCAWL!

Picture by KEITH E MORGAN.

Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, visited Porthcawl yesterday (Wednesday) to pay a visit to a local charity. On a walkabout, she met local schoolchildren. (See report on page 10, and next week's GEM for more photographs).

10 YEARS FOR MAN WHO 'USED BMW AS WEAPON'

A MOTORIST who "used his car as a weapon" and deliberately drove at a group of men, has been jailed for 10 years at Cardiff Crown Court, and disqualified from driving for six years, *writes AJ SICLUNA*.

One of the men who was injured, David Parish, had been alerted by a disturbance outside his home, and, as a result, suffered a broken knee into which two plates were inserted.

Mr Parish later told the police that "his whole life had been thrown into turmoil".

Ryan Waters (26) of Fford Maendy, Sarn, admitted causing Mr Parish grievous bodily harm with intent, attempting to cause grievous bodily harm with intent to Lee Jones, and dangerous driving.

Prosecutor David Pugh said the offences took place when Waters was on bail for assaulting Hayley Dicks. They had had a relationship but had split up.

On New Year's Eve, Waters contacted her crying, and the following day he collected her "to sort things out".

But, said Mr Pugh, he began "kicking off" and drove in his BMW to the home of Lee Jones, a friend of Miss Dicks, at The Chase, Brackla.

He arrived at 5am and hammered on the door. Mr Jones answered, and was attacked by Waters.

A friend, Ricky Hunt, who was staying at the house, tried to break up the fight, struck Waters and rugby tackled him.

Waters left, but picked up a piece of wood and struck Mr Jones on the arm. Waters got back into his car and Mr Jones bit his thumb.

Seconds later, a stone broke the window of the BMW, at which point Mr Parish, in his 50s, came out holding his dog, wondering what the commotion was.

All went into Mr Parish's driveway and soon after, Waters revved his engine and drove at them, striking the three.

Miss Dicks, shocked by what she saw, jumped out of Waters' car.

At the moment, said Mr Pugh, Mr Parish is wearing a leg brace and will possibly need another operation in two years.

Mr Jones had possible broken toes and cuts to the forehead.

Mr Parish later said he now lacked mobility, and has to live with his elderly mother because he is more or less housebound.

The court heard that in July, Waters was involved in a charge of battery and driving without due care, involving punching Miss Dicks in the stomach, and swerving into the rear of her car when she had a child as a passenger.

His counsel, Eugene Egan, described Waters as "fragile and brittle". He said that he foolishly went to the house of Mr Jones and matters spilled over, with the result that he had "put his head into the lion's cage" with two men against him.

He said he wanted to apologise to the blameless Mr Parish, who suffered significant injuries.

Waters, he said, came from a respectable background and his parents were bewildered.

Judge Stephen Hopkins said Waters' relationship with the woman had been "turbulent to say the least."

He said Mr Parish was a perfectly innocent person, and Waters had used his car as a weapon.

He was ordered to take an extended driving test and pay a victim surcharge of £120.

MORRISONS HEADING FOR PORTHCAWL

THE bidding contest to build a new supermarket in Porthcawl has been won by Morrisons.

Bids were invited for the supermarket, which is earmarked for the Hillsboro Place car park, after Tesco pulled out, almost exactly one year ago. Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) confirmed today that its preferred bidder for the development of a supermarket in Porthcawl is Wm Morrison Supermarkets PLC.

A BCBC spokesperson said: "Morrisons was selected as the preferred bidder, following a number of competitive bids and a rigorous selection process.

"The appointment and a subsequent analysis of related financial issues are still subject to cabinet approval. The development of the superstore forms an important part of the plans for the waterfront area and will benefit the community of Porthcawl, as well as the overall regeneration scheme.

"With the council undertaking highways and infrastructure work, the superstore development will provide an important link with Dock Street and the town centre, new car parking facilities for the town and attractive landscaped public spaces.

"It will release funding that will enable the council to focus on other important phases of the regeneration, including land reserved for leisure use in the lower part of Salt Lake and the development of the nearby Jennings Building."

The announcement comes as work on the new £3.4m Porthcawl Marina enters its final stages and the council continues to develop a Townscape Heritage Initiative funding scheme for buildings in the seafront area. The cabinet will be asked to approve Morrisons as the preferred bidder when it meets on July 23.

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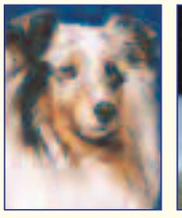

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Ogmore AM hears of progress in the battle against cancer

JANICE GREGORY, AM for Ogmore has attended an event organised to highlight the work of Cancer Research UK

The charity pints out that in Wales, 50 people are diagnosed with cancer every day – more than 17, 000 each year - but research is helping to win the fight against cancer. Survival rates have doubled in the last 40 years.

Representatives spent a day in the National Assembly, showing AMs how drug discoveries and clinical trials are put into practice through their Portable Lab.

Emma Greenwood, head of Policy Development at Cancer Research UK, said: "It's essential that the Government continues to support the research environment in Wales, so we can bring forward the day when all cancers are cured."

The AM said: "Research is cancer's number one enemy, so I was delighted to visit Cancer Research UK's Portable Lab and show my support for research in Wales.

From developing targeted screening programmes <javascript:void(0);> which help detect cancer earlier to clinical trials that mean that patients can access the latest cancer drugs, Cancer Research UK is working to improve and save lives right across Wales."

Janice Gregory with Gareth Griffiths, Director of the Wales Cancer Trials Unit.

Pastor's work on the streets of Bridgend

AT the June meeting of Coity Women's Institute, the president, Lyn Griffiths, introduced the speaker, Sali Sidford of Street Pastors, Bridgend.

A member of Hope Chapel, Sali has been a street pastor for four years, caring for vulnerable people who are out late at night on the streets of Bridgend.

The work of a street pastor is demanding, requiring significant periods of training, a willingness to be out at night from 9.30pm to 4am, and a sincere love for the people who need their help.

It was an illuminating and informative talk,which raised the profile of Bridgend Street Pastors, and earned them significant respect.

The president gave the vote of thanks, saying that Bridgend must be very grateful for the wonderful job being done by Sali and her colleagues. Attention then turned to the business for the day, and Lyn reported on the Welsh AGM held at Cardiff.

t was very well attended, with people coming from far afield. Griff Rhys Jones spoke in his capacity as president of Civic Voice, and John Humphrys took questions from the floor.

The general response to the day was "absolutely brilliant".

On a more local level, the craft classes at Coity go from strength-to-strength; members have tried beading with Ann and crochet with Margaret, and are looking forward to trying their hand at pottery under the guidance of Teri Moore.

The next meeting, the last before the summer break, will be on Wednesday, July 31, at 7.30pm in Gilead Church, Heol Spencer.

The speaker will be Ms Hannah Rees of the RSPB, who will speak on 'Greener Gardens.' New members are welcome to attend.

Fatal crash: police appeal

POLICE have renewed their appeal for witnesses following a fatal road traffic collision at 3.10am on Saturday, May 25 on A473 Coychurch roundabout near the B&Q store, when a silver Audi A4 estate car driven by Heather Hughes (28), from Brackla, collided with roadside furniture.

A spokesman said police would specifically like to speak to the driver of a large dark coloured car, possibly an Audi or Volkswagen, the driver of which is believed to have stopped briefly to offer assistance, and a young male pedestrian, believed to be in his early 20s, who was walking past the roundabout at the time.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the South Wales Police serious collision investigation unit on 101, or Crimestoppers (free and anonymously) on 0800 555 111.

Straight-talking autobiography

ONE of Wales' most outspoken (and controversial) figures, John Elfed Jones of Coity, near Bridgend, has published his autobiography – in Welsh.

Originally from Maentwrog in north Wales, his impressive CV includes deputy managing director of Anglesey Aluminium, deputy Secretary at the Welsh Office, Chairman of the Welsh Language Board, HTV Wales and Welsh Water.

"I've never shied away from giving my opinion on matters that are close to me, and I rarely regret saying them," he says.

His book, Dyfroedd Dyfnion, which was launched on June 28 at the Millennium Centre, Cardiff, is published by Y Lolfa at £9.95.

Civic charity coffee morning

BRIDGEND County Civic Charity appeals committee recently held the first event for the Mayor of the county borough, Coun Clive James with a coffee morning at the Great House Hotel and Restaurant, Laleston.

The choir of pupils from Llangewydd Junior School with music teacher, Miss Bethan Hatch, accompanied by headteacher Mrs S Davies, entertained guests. The event raised £221 for the charity.

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Readers' Letters

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We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, DON JOHN, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7E OR email gemeditorial@tindlenews. co.uk

Last chance for the public to support hospital ballot

The Princess of Wales Hospital, that we all depend upon in times of trouble, is still at risk of being downgraded.

The ABMU Hospital Board started consulting on the necessary changes that must take place to our health service last October. Now we are told July 19 is the final date for consultation following which, either Royal Glamorgan, or POW, will be chosen and we will have to live with the consequences of the decisions.

Blue Booklets have been circulating through our town over the last six weeks but sadly there are still some apathetic citizens who have not yet bothered to complete the simple ballot form that only requires two ticks and your postcode to record your support of our hospital.

The ticks on the front page give your strong support for Option 3 that supports the enhancement of our Bridgend hospital.

Porthcawl SHOUT, established to speak out on behalf of the people of Porthcawl people, has tirelessly worked throughout this consultation period to safeguard the interests of our town.

As a final effort, they will be at the Bandstand in John Street on Saturday, to help latecomers fill in the ballot forms.

Also, as has already been reported, their meeting tomorrow (Friday, July 5) will give us all the last chance to have our say. It is hoped that large numbers will make the effort to be at Trinity Church at 2pm to show beyond any doubt that the people of Porthcawl really care. All are welcome.

Our thanks must go to those who attended the meeting at the Grand Pavilion on June 12, and to the many who have responded to our campaign *"Your Hospital Needs You Now"*.

Clive Mort
(Porthcawl SHOUT Forum)

'Tell the NHS...'

THE NHS in south Wales is currently consulting about the future of maternity and neonatal care, children's and A&E services.

Between now and July 19, they want to hear from as many people as possible about the proposed changes.

This can be done by attending one of the public meetings in your area, emailing them at swresponse@wales.nhs.uk or by writing to SWP, PO Box 4368, Cardiff, CF14 8JN.

It is a pity it has come to this, but this is due to the failure of the Welsh Government to tackle the staff shortages in our health service.

Coun Richard Bertin
(Independent, Vale of Glamorgan Council)

Mayor's praise for awards evening

I FEEL I must write with regard to Maesteg Comprehensive School's sports awards presentation evening held on June 27, which was a superb event produced on the most professional basis, and equal to any I have seen in the past.

This was a tribute not only to the whole staff at the school whose commitment to the children's future cannot be faulted or questioned.

Notwithstanding this, the true stars of the awards were the children and young people of our brilliant valley, whose talents shine as the brightest stars.

They deserve all the acclaim and recognition they can get for their sporting achievements and may they continue to excel in their chosen careers.

I wish to say that all the pupils deserve all the support we can give them, I wish them a fruitful life. Well done one and all – and a very big thank you for the invitation to the evening.

Coun Phil W Jenkins,
Deputy Mayor, Maesteg Town Council.

FUNDING CUTS ARE TO BLAME

THE leader of the Welsh Conservatives Andrew RT Davies AM, attacks the Assembly Government for cutting the bus service operators' grant.

He, of course, like all Welsh Conservative politicians, chooses to ignore and not mention the £1.7 billion funding cuts imposed by the Conservative-led UK Coalition Government on the Welsh people.

This savage cut to Welsh funding means the Welsh Government has been forced to make some very difficult spending choices. Where would he and his fellow Conservative Assembly members make cuts?

Would he like the Westminster Coalition Government to cut the services that help to look after the most vulnerable, the disabled, the old and the poor? Just who would he penalise?

Let's have an honest answer from you, Mr Davies, not the usual silence we get from Welsh Conservative politicians when asked about the funding by the Coalition that affects the Welsh people.

G Smith,
Llantwit Major.

Share your views.

WE are inviting readers to tell us what they think of the Big Lottery Fund's work in Wales by taking part in 100 Big Voices.

It's 100 to tie in with the £100,000 daily amount we award in Wales to help communities most in need.

And in recognition of this, we aim to gather at least 100 voices from the public, projects we've funded, stakeholders and perhaps the odd celebrity, to help showcase all the wonderful things that are being achieved through our funding.

There are some really amazing things happening right on our doorsteps, helping people from all walks of life. To help demonstrate this, we would like everyone to watch a short film on the web page featuring three touching stories about people whose lives have been helped by our funding.

After you've watched it, discover how you can get your voice heard. So enjoy the film and participate here www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/100bigvoices.

John Rose,
Wales Director, Big Lottery Fund.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL JULY 1)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
04 Thur	04.15	7.9	16.47	8.1
05 Fri	05.15	9.4	17.38	8.4
06 Sat	06.01	8.6	18.23	8.7
07 Sun	06.46	8.8	19.04	8.9
08 Mon	07.25	9.0	19.39	9.2
09 Tues	08.01	9.1	20.12	9.3
10 Wed	08.33	9.2	20.47	9.3
11 Thur	09.05	9.2	21.21	9.3

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

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Published by: Glamorgan GEM Ltd., 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge. CF71 7EL. Printed by NWN Ltd.
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CARDIFF CROWN COURT ROUND-UP by AJ SICLUNA

Maesteg man and son jailed for ambush of love rival

A BUSINESSMAN and his son took part in deliberately ambushing and attacking a love rival of one of them, causing him to suffer a broken jaw, a court heard.

Norman Hayden (53) of Talbot Terrace, Maesteg, was jailed for five years at Cardiff Crown Court and his son, Damien Hayden (26) of Sandfields, Port Talbot, was jailed for three years, 10 months.

Both had been found guilty of causing Jamie Gaylard grievous bodily harm with intent.

Judge William Gaskell told Norman Hayden: "Because of your obsession and jealousy, you set up this assault."

His son, he added, had undoubtedly been brought into the situation and his criminality was less than that of his father.

Prosecutor Marion Lewis said that on January 2 last year, Mr Gaylard was attacked by the men in the Asda car park, Maesteg.

A third person was present, but didn't take part. Norman Hayden headbutted him, causing him to fall to the ground and Damien Hayden threw a punch to the left side of his face.

He suffered two black eyes, abrasions, a cut lip and a broken jaw.

Norman Hayden denied being near the scene and his son said he had been elsewhere.

The attack, said Ms Lewis, was motivated by jealousy because six months before, Norman Hayden had threatened Mr Gaylard about seeing a woman he knew.

Francis Jones, for Damien Hayden, said that he was not the leader and was under the influence of his father.

Since the attack, his wife had tragically died and he had done his best to look after his child.

Andrew Jones, for Norman Hayden, said: "This was a man cuckolded by a woman. It was provocation."

Since the attack, he had been provoked by Mr Gaylard but had not responded.

"He does not drink, and has no problem with drugs. He is a loving, devoted father and the incident has had such a dramatic effect on him, he has suffered depression and received treatment.

"He has lost his financial stability and had been an upstanding, respected man."

The Judge said Norman Hayden had had a relationship for some years with a considerably younger woman, who intermittently had a sexual relationship with Mr Gaylard.

"No doubt she encouraged Mr Gaylard and he would visit her for sex. When the relationship with Norman Hayden ended, he didn't take it well.

"But you had no right to arrange that assault on a man who was something of a thorn. There is a suggestion that Mr Gaylard flaunted the relationship.

"You had had enough and you decided to assault him seriously, and you brought along your son and another man."

He said after the attack, Mr Gaylard went to his father crying and shouting: "Look what they have done to me." Some teeth were dislodged and his face distorted.

"The offence was cowardly. You ambushed this man and inflicted significant injury. Both of you used your feet."

Serial burglar's jail sentence

A SERIAL burglar who raided 20 premises in the Bridgend area has been jailed for three years at Cardiff Crown Court.

Lee Collier (42) of no fixed address, admitted three charges of burglary and asked for 17 other offences of burglary to be taken into consideration.

All of the offences, said Judge Rhys Rowlands, had had a profound effect on the victims.

Prosecutor Jason Howells said that on April 13, he broke into a house in Newcastle Hill, Bridgend, occupied by Jeanette Beasley and her two children, who actually saw him enter the kitchen.

Collier fled, and 20 minutes later broke into a house in West Road, Bridgend, occupied by Sian Hooper and demanded her purse when he confronted her.

Again, he ran off, having stolen a mobile phone.

On April 12, the police established that he had stolen charity boxes from the bar of the Caeffatri public house, Bridgend.

He denied all the offences, but was positively identified.

All the victims, said Mr Howells, were distressed by the raids and one of the children had nightmares.

He said Mrs Beasley did not feel safe, and the family put in CCTV, costing £2,000. Mrs Hooper also felt unsafe.

He was said to have convictions for 129 offences, including 19 for burglary or attempted burglary.

Said his counsel, Alex Greenwood: "It is right to say he has an horrific record. At one time, he was a heroin addict.

"He made an attempt to assist South Wales Police by admitting unsolved burglaries. He was released from prison earlier this year, but was forced to live on the streets and took to drink and drugs."

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MBE FOR LOCAL CHARITY WORKER

Report by PHILIP IRWIN

A LOCAL charity worker received the MBE in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours list.

Mari Major is probably best known in the area as the secretary and co-ordinator of the Bridgend County Borough Mayor's Civic Charity Appeal Fund – a task she first took on in 2001.

Each mayor takes office and nominates his or her chosen charities, and then events are organised to fundraise for them.

As Mari started in 2001, it means that she has performed this duty for 13 different mayors, and over that period, more than £400,000 has been raised for charities.

Mari was pleased to point out that all these charities were local. She said: "The contributions made by people in Bridgend county borough have been used in the county borough."

Receiving the award was a double surprise. Mari explained: "When I was originally notified, I was warned not to tell anyone before the official announcement – so I hid the letter away and forgot about it.

ABOVE: Mari Major, who received the MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

"So, it really was a shock last week when someone rang to congratulate me."

In recent years, Mari has been busy with her involvement in the Ewenny Arts Festival, which has a string of musical events on the way – all in the evocative surroundings of Ewenny Priory.

She added that she did not know yet where she would go to receive her MBE, adding: "I really don't mind where it takes place.

"It really hasn't sunk in yet, so perhaps it will have by then!"

March over the threat to POW hospital

ANOTHER march against the removal of hospital services will take place this Saturday (July 6) at 1pm from Newbridge Fields through Bridgend town centre to the Princess of Wales Hospital, where it will be addressed by Assembly Members Bethan Jenkins and Suzy Davies.

It follows proposals to remove key services such as accident & emergency, pediatrics, consultant-led maternity and special care maternity unit from either the Princess of Wales in Bridgend or the Royal Glamorgan in Llantrisant.

Organisers said that fears have grown since former Labour AM and now chair of Abertawe Bro Morgannwg, Andrew Davies, declared that even if the Princess of Wales was granted regional status, key services could be removed due to lack of capacity.

During one consultation event, ABMU chief executive Paul Roberts stated that further centralisation and removal of services could be on the cards further down the line.

The man behind the march, Mel Hughes, said: "We are anticipating between 500 and 800 people on this march.

"After the last march that was held midweek, we received a significant number of people who said they were interested in supporting a march if it was over the weekend.

"We strongly urge the people of Bridgend, and anyone across Wales who is concerned about these proposals, to come along and support us.

"Last time we saw hundreds of mothers and children, many of whom rely on these services, and it would be great to see twice as many this time and other people who are concerned."

Former Plaid Cymru Assembly candidate for Bridgend, Tim Thomas, who has helped to organise the march, added: "I am very concerned about services across south Wales and I find the whole process of pitting one hospital and one community against another extremely distasteful.

"The fight for a better NHS in Wales will not stop once a recommendation has been made, which is why I am keen to see a united campaign group."

RNLI race to rescue as yacht springs a leak!

PORTHCAWL RNLI crew raced to the rescue of a 77-year-old yachtsman, whose boat was taking on water – which was already three-feet deep!

At 4.45pm on Friday June 28, Porthcawl's RNLI Lifeboat was launched to reports of a 39-foot sailing yacht taking on water and in danger of sinking off Kenfig Beach.

Both Porthcawl and Port Talbot RNLI volunteer Lifeboats were launched, because the yacht's radio message to the Coastguard suddenly went dead, and it was feared that the yacht had already sunk, and that there would be people in the water.

Porthcawl's Atlantic 85 Lifeboat "Rose of the Shires", reached the yacht first within 13 minutes, and found a lone sailor on board.

The yacht was taking on a lot of water and in danger of sinking. Helmsman Andrew Walmsley, a volunteer lifeboat man for over 20 years, put crewman Ross Purchase on board to see if he could stop the flow of water into the yacht, and to start pumping it out.

The water started some small electrical fires on board, which were quickly brought under control by the lifeboat crew.

A rescue helicopter also brought an additional salvage pump to the yacht, and winched it down onto the deck.

Andrew Walmsley said "When we arrived at the yacht, we first made sure that the sailor, an experienced 77-year old yachtsman, was safe and well. There was approximately three foot of water in the boat, and we immediately started pumping it out of the yacht."

Porthcawl lifeboat stood by with the stricken yacht until Mumbles RNLI's all-weather Tyne Class lifeboat arrived on the scene to assist with the pumping, and towed the yacht into Swansea Marina.

Mrs Aileen Jones, the volunteer RNLI deputy launching authority for Porthcawl, said: "This rescue highlights the important work of all our RNLI volunteers around the coast.

"This rescue involved three RNLI lifeboats and a helicopter, which in total involved more than 30 RNLI volunteers either at sea, or as importantly on shore assisting with the launch of the lifeboats.

"All these volunteers made the rescue possible by giving up their own time to rescue the yacht, and to attend training sessions, sometimes twice a week, for no financial reward."

Philip Irwin

Theo's is the winner

THE St Theodore's Community Shop in Kenfig Hill, 'Theo's' (pictured top left), won the 'best dressed shop window' award during the Kenfig Hill and Pyle Community Council Festival Week.

Arlene's, the florist (pictured bottom left), came a very close second. The competition is set to become an annual event.

PHOTOGRAPHS by KEITH E MORGAN

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Bridgend's Armed Forces Day tribute

IT was a time to pay tribute last Saturday (June 25) when Bridgend residents lined the streets for the Armed Forces Day parade.

For the many veterans who marched in the parade, it was a time to remember colleagues from times past – and Randell John's photographs capture some of those moments of reflection.

PHOTOGRAPHS by RANDELL JOHN (LSWPP)

www.Randell.JohnPhotography.com
01656 662324

Big moment for dancers

TWO young Llantwit Major dancers' dreams have come true.

Bridget Lloyd James (11) and Alice Teague (13) were selected at an audition in March from over 200 young hopefuls.

They will appear in a new adaptation of *Giselle* at the New Theatre in Cardiff, for three performances from July 25-26 with English Youth Ballet (EYB).

Bridget attends Llanilltud Fawr Primary and Alice goes to Cowbridge Comprehensive. They both train at the Moya Vahey School of Russian Ballet.

All the young dancers in the cast will dance alongside EYB's international principal artists in a professional production. They will gain an insight into what life is like as a professional ballet dancer.

The young cast are currently engaged with the EYB's principal dancers in rehearsals at Fitzalalan High School in a 10-day intensive rehearsal process. The selected dancers are being inspired and mentored by the principal dancers.

COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

Celebration time!

TREOES villagers – mums, dads, children and grandparents, were at the opening of the long-awaited Treoes allotments.

It really had a carnival atmosphere, with flags and balloons which added to the spirit to the occasion. Refreshments were available, all contributed by the villagers.

Vale AM Jane Hutt spoke of the help that is available for projects such as the Treoes allotments .

Special guest, Terry Walton, the well-known gardening broadcaster, gave an interesting and amusing account of his gardening career, which began at the age of 12.

At the conclusion of his address, he was presented with a gleaming new spade by the Treoes Brownies.

Reminder

ON July 12, the popular Minnesingers will perform in St Canna's Church, Llangan, at 7.30pm.

Tickets £7, including raffle ticket.

Barn dance

TICKETS are still available for the forthcoming barn dance at Penllyne Estate on July 13 (at 6.30pm).

'The Thingumijigs Ceilidh Band' will provide the music for this popular event; hog roast; admission – adults £10, children £4.

Did you know you can read your GEM online?
bridgend-today.co.uk

PORTHCAWL UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE IN CLASS OF ITS OWN!

The Writing for Pleasure Group.

THE Third Age Trust is the national representative body for more than 900 U3A branches, which between them have 300,000 individual members.

All U3As are democratic, self-funding organisations that provide all types of educational, creative and leisure activities for members, at minimum cost.

Men and women who are no longer in full time employment and who share common interests and a desire to learn, are welcome to join. No qualifications are required or awarded.

Porthcawl U3A has 36 active groups meeting at regular intervals throughout a month. This week, we feature the Writing for Pleasure Group that meets bi-monthly at The Rest.

This dedicated group, ably led by Marcia Humphries, is so popular that it cannot accept new members at present, but maintains a 'waiting list'.

The members of the group demonstrate their creative, imaginative and literary abilities by sharing their work together when they meet bi-monthly. The group reflects the principles of the U3A, as it encourages the development of individual talents in a relaxed atmosphere.

Last year, it combined to produce and publish Monks' Tales, a successful book based on the contributions of the whole group, which was quickly oversubscribed.

For more about U3A, call 01656 783663, or see www.porthcawlu3a.webplus.net

Deadline nears for views on hospital

RESIDENTS of Bridgend county borough are being reminded that they have only until July 19 to give their views on the future of the Princess of Wales Hospital.

NHS Wales is consulting on proposals for the future of consultant-led maternity and neonatal care, inpatient children's services and emergency medicine (A&E) at Bridgend and other south Wales hospitals.

BCBC deputy leader, Coun David Sage said: "It's really important for Bridgend county citizens to share their views, as this will ultimately help decide the future of our local hospital.

"All the details are on the front of our own council website or you can go to the South Wales Programme website which is *www.wales.nhs.uk/swp* or you can contact *www.wales.nhs.uk/swp/hafan* if you prefer to register your views in Welsh.

"Please ensure you do this by the closing date of Friday, July 19, 2013."

Residents can share their views by:

Using the feedback form on the 'Contact Us' page of the South Wales Programme website;

Emailing swpresponse@wales.nhs.uk;

or in writing to South Wales Programme Feedback, PO Box 4368, Cardiff, CF14 8JN.

For more information, telephone 0300 083 0020 (24-hour answer phone).

KPC Youth meeting

THE annual general meeting of KPC Youth takes place on Monday, July 8, from 6.30pm at the centre off Pyle Inn Way, Pyle CF33 6AB.

Youth Festival a showpiece for talent at Ewenny

EWENNY Arts Festival has given young people from the county boroughs of Bridgend and the Vale the chance to perform to an appreciative audience.

Pupils from Cowbridge Comprehensive and St Brides Church in Wales Primary, delivered a remarkable evening's entertainment.

The senior pupils gave a well-crafted programme bursting with solo items, both instrumental and voice and the juniors also excelled.

The following night, Archdeacon John Lewis, Church in Wales Primary and Llangewydd Junior alternated their performances showcasing their very distinctive styles:

Llangewydd – dramatic and exuding enthusiasm; Archdeacon – harmonious and carefully choreographed.

There was a change of direction when students from Heronsbridge School. Key Stage 4 pupils opened the evening with a version of The Three Little Pigs.

Tremendous performances were given by Justin Beynon as Narrator; cast members – Anita Bond as Mother Pig, Lowell Evans as the Wolf, and Morgan Brunt, Daniel Edmunds and Christopher Mc Fetirch as the three little pigs, all ably supported by a chorus comprised of: Ben Edmunds, Jade Cooper, Kieron Lock and Ethan David.

The second half was equally captivating with a number of items by Heronsbridge School Choir and solos by the talented Daniel Williams.

Next day was the turn of St David's Church in Wales Primary School Choir in combination with 'Harmonious Harps', a harp ensemble.

The primary choir was counter-balanced by a challenging mix of harp solos and ensembles, interspersed with flute and piano pieces.

The festival concluded with Bridgend County Youth Music, in the guise of Bridgend Junior Big Band, Bridgend Saxophone Quartet and the Junior Big Band.

All toe-tapping performances were brilliant, but the Sax Quartet deserve to be singled out for their endurance as well as talent: Jesse Goss, soprano; Katie Wynn, alto; Tom Rees, tenor; and Jordan Parker, baritone.

VIOLINIST IN RECITAL

MUSIC lovers are in for a treat on July 11, when violinist Sara Trickey presents a recital at Ewenny Priory Church – as part of the Ewenny Arts Festival.

Accompanied by pianist, Daniel Tong, with whom she has recently been recording, Sara will be playing Beethoven's *Spring Sonata* and music by Arvo Part, Schubert, Faure and others. Visit www.saratrickey.com for details.

A winner of numerous awards, she performs across the UK and internationally and appears on a number of recordings.

Sara has strong family links with the Vale of Glamorgan, and performed earlier this year at the Barry Arts Festival.

The performance starts at 7.30pm. Tickets available from Ewenny Pottery 01656 653020, Helen 01656 667047, Mari 01656 664105, or on the door.

Beavers enjoy a day of fun in the sun!

Pictures above by MANDY THOMAS
Available for purchase,
telephone 07734 384536.
These and other pictures of the event can be viewed at
www.mandythomasphotography.co.uk

THE Pencoed Scouts and Guides group took advantage of the fine weather last Saturday (June 29) and organised a fun day for the Beavers on land near the Scout Hall.

There were fun races and a host of other activities that kept the youngsters busy, and a great time was had by all.

Pam Watkins of the Pencoed Scouts and Guides said: "It was a very busy day, but very enjoyable."

She said that the group welcomed new members, and was also keen to recruit more adults to help.

She added: "Even if someone doesn't want to work directly with the children, there are many other things that people can do to help.

The Beavers (aged six to eight) meet on Thursdays, 5pm–6.30pm) in the Scout hall, Heol Las, Pencoed.

The Cubs (aged eight to 10-and-a-half) meet on Thursdays, 6.30pm–8pm, and the Scouts (10-and-a-half to 14-and-a-half) meet 8pm–9.30pm, at the same venue.

For more information, telephone Pam Watkin 01656 862471.

BRIDGEND BRIDGE RESULTS

RESULTS for Bridgend Bridge Club at recent events:

Wednesday, June 26: first Dave Barwood and John Henson, second David Bowen and David Crompton, third Geoff Barnes and Peter Bugden. The best placed improvers for Thursday 27 June were Barrie Jenkins, Vanessa Beecham and Francis Heslin.

Friday, June 28: first Vida Halford and Glyn Williams, second Tim Barsby and Joan Jenkins, third Mari Jones and Irene Wickham.

In addition to the regular club nights on Wednesdays and Fridays at Nolton Church Hall at 7pm, to which all bridge players are welcome, on Thursdays from 2pm until 5pm, also at Nolton Church Hall, there are gentle bridge sessions primarily for the less experienced and where assistance is available.

In the autumn, lessons for beginners will resume - to register an interest please contact one of Steve Burgoyne (01656 661968) John Evans (01656 880372) or David Newman(01656 649138). **DN**

Teenstar finalist

AHNUH VALENTINE from Bridgend has made it through to the grand final of national singing competition TeenStar at the O2 in London on July 7.

After taking part in auditions alongside thousands of other unsigned singers across the UK and impressing the TeenStar judging panel, Ahnuh went on to battle in live music showcases for the regional and area final heats.

Local MP's obesity campaign support

YOUNGSTERS in the Bridgend constituency must be given the chance to get active for an hour each day to tackle childhood obesity, the Bridgend MP, Madeleine Moon, has warned.

She joined fellow MPs at a summit meeting convened by the British Heart Foundation (BHF) to discuss how to fight the causes of childhood obesity.

Mrs Moon said: "We are facing a battle with childhood obesity, and the rising tide is not going to subside without action from politicians, parents, schools and children themselves.

"I was surprised to learn that just an hour of physical activity each day can be part of the solution.

"We also need to look at helping parents make better choices about the food they're serving up, while protecting the next generation from the dangers of sophisticated junk food marketing, both on the TV, and online."

Matthew Wylward-Wilding's self-portrait.

Young artists show off talent at school show

YOUNG artists from St Clare's School in Porthcawl proudly displayed their fantastic artwork in this year's end of year summer exhibition, the end product of months of hard work by pupils working towards their GCSE, 'AS' and 'A' Level qualifications in art and design, textiles and graphic design.

This has been the first year that St Clare's School has offered textiles and graphic design.

The variety of work was admired by parents, past and present pupils, and members of the public in a celebration of the time and effort that has gone in over the last school year by the talented pupils.

The senior school hall was transformed by an impressive array of colourful portraits and textiles for visitors to enjoy. There was an excellent turnout and pupils were praised for the high quality of work in their portfolios and final pieces.

Headmaster Simon Antwis said: "I am delighted and impressed by the high standard of work that has been produced by our pupils, and would like to congratulate them on their hard work.

"I am sure that our younger pupils have been inspired by the work on display here today."

A focal point was an outstanding piece produced by year-12 pupil Matthew Aylward-Wilding, which won through to the finals of a national art competition.

Matthew's self-portrait, entitled 'Human Decay' impressed the judges at a specialist crafts art and design magazine, and has been shortlisted for the cover competition. **JH**

SUPPORTERS GIVE KPC YOUTH HELPING HAND WITH GOLF DAY

LOCAL businesses and community groups came together recently to give a young people's charity a welcome boost.

KPC Youth held its annual charity golf day at the Grove Golf Course, when a total of 17 teams entered.

The winning team was North Eastern Roofing, with WELDEC in second place, and the Greys 2 team were placed third.

The winner of the longest drive was Dave Watkins, of the North Easting Roofing team,

Nearest the pin was Colin Rumbelow of the Grove, and Mervyn, a member of 'The Toasties' correctly guessed the number of lost balls on the day.

Alison Mawby, of KPC Youth, said: "We would like to thank the weather, for holding off on the day, and all the teams who supported us again this year.

"Thanks also go to Barclays Bank for kindly match funding the raffle, all staff at the Grove, Andrew Singer for helping to organise the event, Jeff Perren for all his help and kind donation of new banners, Alun Evans for helping on the day, David Deere for conducting the auction, and Megan Butcher for her usual support in helping to encourage team entries!

"Finally, we offer our thanks for donations and prizes received from Blue Seas Guesthouse, Geoff Dower, Dunraven, Ray Febrey, V2C, Parkwood Hotel London, and Amelia Price."

She added that around £2,500 will be raised from the event.

Philip Howells, on behalf of the Greys 2 team, collects their prizes.

ABOVE: The winning team from North Easter Roofing with Caroline Tranter from Barclays Bank.

ABOVE: In second place were the Weldec team.

Quiz League posers

***HERE** are this week's specials:*

1. Which group did Martin Kemp of 'Eastenders' appear with and take part as a member of?

2. What do you call the study of armorial bearings?

3. Who was the first man to run 200 metres in under 20 seconds and 400 metres in under 44 seconds?

4. Designated in 1951, which is the first National Park in England and Wales?

A RUDGE (for Quiz League)

ANSWERS:
1 Spandau Ballet.
2 Heraldry.
3 Michael Johnson.
4 Peak District.

SUMMER PARTY

BRIDGEND County Civic Charity appeals standing committee and county borough Mayor Clive James present a Summer Party with strawberries and cream at Heronsbridge School, with Dawnswyr Pen-y-Bont, Cor Aelwyd Porthcawl and pupils from Ysgol Y Ferch o'r Sger on July 14 (3.30pm-5.30pm).

Tickets £5, children admitted free. For further information, contact 01656 664105 or 01656 871439.

Cooper and Bob awaiting instructions...

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It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Branch Manager Phil Powell feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service the Vale, Bridgend, RCT and Porthcawl areas and Phil is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Phil a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!

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YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Garden party

OGMORE Valley Ladies Society, who every year raise thousands of pounds to help others in the community, are holding a garden party in the grounds of Clive and Lydia Davies's home called Factory House, Blackmill.

Factory House was a woollen mill and the family have lived there since 1929. The gates are open from 1pm to 4.30pm, on July 16, and everyone is welcome. There will be a large number of stalls, selling arts and crafts goods, lovely homemade confectionery and other delicacies.

As you wander through this lovely garden, which overlooks the river and has a large variety of wildlife, you can enjoy fresh strawberries and cream with a pot of tea!

All money raised at this event is to go to the Blackmill, Nantymoel and Wyndham Boys Club.

Pen-y-Fai WI

THE president of Pen-y-Fair WI, Jean Griffiths, opened the recent meeting and introduced the speaker, Mrs Robson.

Her mother was a widow and to earn a living moved into a corner shop in 1951.

For my younger readers this was a general grocery store and foodstuffs were rationed until 1953. Ration books actually ended in 1954.

Mrs Robson had a slide show depicting items such as tins of Oxo cubes, Ovaltine, coffee and jams, also various advertising posters.

Anne Jones gave a vote of thanks and explained that the Cowbridge museum had on display a number of items featured on the slide show.

Chris Jones announced that the next link meeting, which was Laleston WI's turn to organise, would be held in October, venue to be confirmed.

Angela Smith gave details of future trips.

Jan Ryder won the competition with a poem on the subject of 'Mothers'.

The next meeting will be on July 15 in the primary school grounds at 7pm, when it is hoped to hold a garden party.

Community Centre

PEOPLE living in Llangynwyd are renovating a building close to the Post Office, which can be used as a badly-needed community centre.

To help raise money for this worthwhile cause, a group will perform in St Cynwyd's church, consisting of four girls, who sing together as 'Viva to the Diva', – Anne Braley, Nicola Harris, Sally Kingsbury and Beryl Vaughan and accompanist Ryan Wood.

Anne Braley, mezzo soprano, has performed with the European Chamber Opera, Neath Opera and Opera School of Wales.

Nicola Harris (soprano) has sung with is Llandaff Musical Society and Cowbridge Operatic Society.

Sally Kingsbury started her career with the Mid Glamorgan Youth Choir, sang with the Llandaff Operatic Society and joined Cowbridge Operatic Society in 2001.

Beryl Vaughan has been a member of Cowbridge Operatic Society since 1980.

Ryan Wood is well known in the Maesteg area.

The group will be performing in St Cynwyd's church, Llangynwyd on Friday, July 12 at 7.30pm. Tickets can be obtained from Llangynwyd community centre committee members and the Post Office.

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.

I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ
TEL: 01656 725399
email: tynycoed1@yahoo.co.uk

Jazz ensemble

A SUMMER concert will be held at Brackla Community Centre on Friday, July 12 at 7.30pm.

The entertainment will be provided by the Archbishop McGrath Comprehensive School Jazz Ensemble and the versatile Brackla Community Chorus. Tickets are £4 at the door.

The choir rehearses in the community centre on Wednesday evenings from 7pm to 9pm. Visitors and new members welcome.

Castle gathering

ON June 19, 13 members of Aberkenfig and District Women's Institute boarded a minibus and travelled to Greenacres Restaurant in North Cornelly for lunch, before moving on to Margam Castle for the 90th Glamorgan Federation of Women's Institutes Anniversary celebration garden party.

All the members were dressed in their best outfits complete with hats and the weather rose to the occasion.

All the Institutes of the Glamorgan Federation were represented.

Aberkenfig and District WI meets on the second Wednesday of each month except for August, when there is a coach trip. The next meeting will be on July 10 at 2pm in the Welfare Hall, Heol Persondy, Aberkenfig and new members and visitors are always welcome. This will be the last meeting before the August break.

For further details about Aberkenfig WI, contact secretary Pat Lewis on 01656 721933, or www.cobwebs.co.uk.

History in song

OGMORE Valley male voice choir, which has among its members ex-miners, headteachers and teachers, has come up with a scheme of interest to local schools.

The choir brings to schools a number of mining artefacts such as helmets, lamps etc and members explain different techniques used to extract coal and answer questions on the mining methods once used in the area. The choir also performs popular mining songs.

School sports

OGMORE Vale primary school will hold the sports day tomorrow (Friday, July 5) from 10am, weather permitting.

It is intended to hold a special assembly for the pupils who will be leaving to complete their education in a comprehensive school on Wednesday, July 10 at 2pm. All responsible adults of the children are invited.

Garth primary

A COMPETITION organised by Cricket Wales, local cricket clubs and Bridgend CBC, formed part of the council's Active Young People Department's calendar of school sports competitions and events.

The Llynfi Valley school children bowled over their rival teams of year four pupils from Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr, Pencoed Primary and Nottage Primary, following qualifying rounds held in Bridgend, Maesteg, Pencoed and Porthcawl.

Carers' centre

Bridgend Carers' Centre's outreach group will be at Trinity church hall, Porthcawl and Velindre hospital, Cardiff, from 10am and 12noon today (July 4).

On July 5, there will be an outing to the 13th century walled town of Tenby, where carers will be able to explore local beaches, the harbour and local shops. The coach departs 9.30am from Hope Chapel; to reserve a place telephone 01656 658479.

On July 8 and 15, there will be the book Cwtch between 1pm and 2pm.

On July 9, a representative from the CRUSE bereavement support group will be at the centre to offer advice from 10.30am to 12noon.

The community café will be open on July 10 at the centre between 12.30pm and 3.30pm, where staff will offer advice.

Sally Jones and Dorothy Thomas of Aberkenfig WI.

Joanne Davies and Pat Lewis.

Dilys Mitchell and Gillian Williams.

Daniel's support for African charity

by TIM CHAPMAN

A man from Zimbabwe has been publicising the River Africa charity with a number of collection days in south Wales – and last Friday, June 28, he was in Holton Road, Barry.

Daniel Nadzo (41) a web designer who now lives in south Wales, wants people to know how the cause is helping African women to survive childbirth and those suffering from HIV.

Daniel said: "The aim is to help to reduce the amount of women who are dying in childbirth, and instances of mothers passing on HIV to babies.

"Some mothers do not live long enough to raise their children."

Although he is thousands of miles from Zimbabwe, Daniel has not forgotten his homeland and says he is inspired by the example set by his mother Rosemary who died in 2003

He explained: "She was a schoolteacher and did a lot for the community."

Daniel Nadzo fundraising on Holton Road, Barry, for the River Africa charity.

Daniel plans to run the Cardiff Half Marathon on October 6 to raise money for the cause. He also hopes to arrange for a walk to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro which would include women from both Zimbabwe and the United Kingdom who are living with HIV, so they can learn from eachother's experiences.

Daniel said: "From its inception River Africa has been run by unpaid Welsh Volunteers, and will continue to be run by volunteers for its lifetime.

"We aim to reduce the incidence of maternal mortality in hard-to-reach rural communities in Zimbabwe through the implementation of antenatal and postpartum care.

"The care will be dispensed through purpose built mother and baby hospitals which are supported by the use of a fully integrated maternal mobile clinic.

"I also plan to approach local vehicle manufacturers or dealers, hoping they will donate two 4x4vehicles that River Africa can use to implement its mobile clinic and chicken project in Zimbabwe."

Daniel is optimistic about the future of Zimbabwe, saying it must take a central path, not affected by its colonial past, and not too liberal either.

"We can't use colonial excuses, it is time for Zimbabwe to move on," he said.

For more information on River Africa, go to www.riverafrica.org; to support Daniel's individual Mount Kilimanjo climb, go to: www.justgiving.com/Daniel-Nadzo.

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News from 2117 (Kenfig Hill) Squadron ATC

Cadets from Kenfig Hill and Cowbridge Squadrons

From left to right: Cdt Sgt Norris, Cdt Sgt Aston, Cdt Peckham, Cdt O'Neil, and Cdt Cpl Barrett.

TURNING THE CLOCK BACK ON A GOOD THING...

'Hospital is a centre of excellence' – health chiefs

ASSURANCES that Maesteg Hospital is seen by health chiefs as a centre of excellence, have been welcomed by regional AM Byron Davies.

A public meeting in Maesteg about health services was told by ABMu chief executive Paul Roberts that Maesteg Hospital had an important role to play in providing health services within the whole Bridgend area.

He said that the excellent out-patients' department was being expanded to include more specialist clinics. It was realised that it has the capacity to treat more people than it does.

Dr Rohan Mather told the meeting that a regional service for people suffering with motor neurone disease was going there and some other work was being taken from Bridgend and put into Maesteg.

Mr Roberts added that they were hoping to bring the GPs from the area back into the hospital to provide some services, including possible out-of-hours services.

Mr Davies, who is a Welsh Conservative regional AM for South Wales West, welcomed this news: "I know that in the past, the out-of-hours service was run by the local GPs on a rota, and they used Maesteg Hospital as a base to treat people at nights and weekends. At one time, they also cared for their own patients in the beds at the hospital.

"I am not sure how much of those services we can reclaim but from the point of view of residents, the current out-of-hours service does not plug the gap left when that service ceased.

"Residents complain that if they need to see a doctor, they have to travel down to the out-of-hours centre at the Princess of Wales Hospital, as there appear to be very few home visits under the new system.

"This is not easy for people living in the outlying areas like Maesteg where car ownership levels are lower than average, and taking a taxi can cost £30 for a return trip – beyond the means of many people.

"I have no idea what can be achieved but I am heartened to hear that attempts are being made to turn the clock back in a good way," he added.

Air cadets get wet and it's not even raining!

AIR Cadets from 2117 (Kenfig Hill) and 293 (Cowbridge) Squadrons ATC got a bit wet under the collar (and everywhere else) on their recent visit to the fire section at St Athan.

The cadets had great fun trying out several pieces of equipment including hoses which accounts for their bedraggled state. Divided into two teams the race was on. Although cold, everyone, including the staff, thoroughly enjoyed the day.

The cadets made sure the staff were not left out, and they ended up just as wet.

The visit, although enjoyable, also had a serious side, as it forms a part of the cadet's syllabus covering health and safety.

Sgt Kevin Gould from Kenfig Hill Squadron, who arranged the visit, would like to thank Julian Smith for giving his time and making the day a success.

Cadets receive awards

THE evening was opened by Flt Sgt Judith Lloyd, Master of Ceremonies, who welcomed cadets, staff and members of the Civilian Committee.

The cadets were looking forward to finding out who had qualified in 2012 for the awards to be presented that night.

They didn't have to wait long before they found out who the successful recipients were: 'Best in Academics' Cdt Barrett; 'Best NCO' Cdt Cpl Aston, who was following in her brother's footsteps as he was Best NCO last year; 'Best in Sports' Cdt Cpl Norris; 'Certificate of Merit' went to Cdt O'Neil, and finally, 'Best Cadet' for 2012 was Cdt Peckham.

After the awards, Flt Lt Barry C Thomas, Officer Commanding, gave a speech in which he thanked the staff, cadets and Civilian Committee for another good year. He told the cadets that there was still time to make an impression this year in readiness for next year's awards.

Mr Ian Aston, chairman of the Civilian Committee, gave a short speech thanking the cadets for the work they have done this year with fund raising.

After the official part of the evening, the staff and cadets enjoyed a barbecue with Sgt Kevin Gould (ATC) as head chef.

This was enjoyed by all, and Mrs Thomas from the Squadron Civilian Committee would like to thank Sgt Gould, as he also spent the day shopping for supplies. At least they used paper plates and cups, so he wasn't chief washer-upper as well.

Lindsay Thomas
Secretary, Civilian Committee

18 months in jail for drug addict 'bully'

A DRUG addict who was violent towards his partner and harassed her has been jailed for 18 months at Cardiff Crown Court, *writes AJ SICLUNA*.

Liam Hodge, 21, was told by Judge Stephen Hopkins QC: "There's only one word which properly describes you in relation to your behaviour to this woman.

"You are a bully."

He said it was an understatement to say his relationship had been volatile. Because of his behaviour towards her, there had been 25 police callouts.

Hodge, of Heol Glanant, Bettws, admitted charges of harassment and robbery.

Prosecutor David Pugh said that the couple's two-year relationship ended in January after he assaulted her.

On March 6, police officers went to the home of Hodge's former partner, Hannah Norris in Bettws, looking for him. She telephoned him but he became abusive, said he had a new girlfriend, and added: "Don't call me again, or I'll strangle you like I did before."

The court was told that he called her and said: "If I ever see you with another man I'm going to kick the door in, tie you up in bed, and burn the house down with you inside."

He also said he would smash her face in.

She called the police and while they were there he again telephoned and said he would control her life.

Later he told her: "I'm going to make your life ******* hell. You'll have to get me done for harassment."I don't care about the police."

Hodge added: "I am never going to let you move on," said Mr Pugh.

He was arrested and said she was lying.

On April 3, he went to Miss Norris' home, demanding £100 and refused to leave. He took her mobile phone, and became angry "with his eyes popping out". She gave him £80, but when her mother and others arrived, he gave it back.

"He said he was sorry and that there was something wrong with his head," said Mr Pugh, but he then prised open her fingers and took the money back.

He later denied going to the house.

She told the police she was so frightened she rarely went out. The police, said Mr Pugh, installed a panic alarm.

Hodge's counsel, Meirion Davies, said: "He had a chaotic lifestyle and has been diagnosed with drug-induced psychosis. He has tried to ease the situation by accepting his responsibility.

"When free of drugs, he is sensible. His intention is to live in another area." The court heard he had been cautioned for punching her in the mouth.

The Judge made a 10-year restraining order, banning Hodge from contacting the woman, and he was ordered to pay a £100 victim surcharge.

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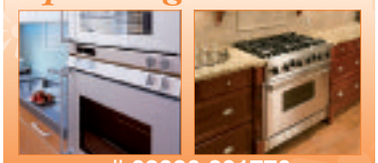
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CAMILLA'S VISIT PUTS CHARITY IN SPOTLIGHT

PORTHCAWL'S royal visit by the Duchess of Cornwall yesterday (Wednesday) was inspired by the support people in the county borough have given to one of her favourite charities, writes PHILIP IRWIN.

Camilla is a patron of Emmaus UK, and her visit to Porthcawl marked the fact that there will soon be three charity shops in the borough – supporting the organisation.

The Emmaus principle is simple. Homeless people are offered the chance to live in an Emmaus community. When staying in a house, they are known as 'Emmaus companions'.

They pay for their keep by working in that community, refurbishing furniture and other items.

These are then sold in the Emmaus charity shops. The homeless people, as and when they find their feet again, can move on and re-start their lives.

However, as Justin Horton, the director of Emmaus south Wales, explained to The GEM: "There is no Emmaus community in south Wales yet. The charity shops are raising funds so that we can buy a suitable house.

"We now have two shops open, in Bridgend and Porthcawl. A third shop, our first superstore, will open in late July in Tremains Road, Bridgend, and will specialise in second-hand furniture, electrical and household items."

Justin stressed that Emmaus was much bigger in other countries.

He said: "The Duchess of Cornwall has just returned from visiting Emmaus France, which is a massive organisation.

"There, people are much more likely to ring Emmaus than their local council, when they want some furniture taken away."

As there is no Emmaus community in south Wales as yet, it follows that goods on sale locally are not reconditioned and refurbished by the homeless.

The work is done by volunteers, who believe in the charity's ethos, and want that first house to be a reality.

Justin said: "They do a wonderful job – which is why the Duchess of Cornwall wants to visit them. When it comes to collecting old furniture, we are really not picky.

"We take items that some other charities turn down, and we can do this because our volunteers are so good at the work."

Justin added: "Our volunteers come along for a variety of reasons.

"Our Porthcawl shop has one volunteer – in her 70s – who takes the bus from Cardiff to do her shift.

"She does so because her son is an Emmaus companion in a community in England."

He continued: "Emmaus south Wales will shortly be purchasing a building in Bridgend that, when refurbished, will become Wales' first Emmaus community, eventually providing accommodation for 22 companions.

"While we still need to raise a large amount of funds to refurbish the building, we are confident that this will be achieved and the community will open in spring/summer 2014."

Anyone interested in donating items to Emmaus should telephone 01656 771555.

Police hunt burglar

POLICE in Bridgend are investigating two burglaries in neighbouring streets in North Cornelly on Monday, June 24.

The first was at around 9am at a house on Heol Onnen, when an intruder was disturbed after entering the property. He made off out of the rear door empty handed.

The second occurred in the adjacent street, Heol Bryn, between 9am and 9.30am, where the culprit removed a wallet and cheque book from the kitchen area.

Police investigating the two incidents have issued a description of a man they would like to speak to.

He is a white man, five feet 11 inches tall with black hair, with a quiff in front and short on the back and sides.

He was clean shaven and wore a grey coloured tracksuit top and trousers with a blue stripe on the outside of the tracksuit, running from the shoulder to the wrist. He spoke with a local accent.

Acting Detective Sergeant Michael Maund from Bridgend CID said: "I want to reassure residents that investigations into these burglaries are continuing and we are doing everything we can to catch whoever is responsible.

"A large amount of local enquiries have already taken place."

Anyone with information concerning these burglaries is asked to contact ADS Maund at Bridgend CID on 101.

Alternatively, you can help fight crime without revealing your identity by contacting Crimestoppers free on 0800 555 111.

Maesteg assault appeal

POLICE are appealing for witnesses, following an incident outside The Star public house in the centre of Maesteg, shortly before midnight on Saturday, June 22 when a 23-year-old man from the Llangynwyd area was assaulted.

A 22-year-old man from Port Talbot, arrested on suspicion of assault, has been released on police bail, pending further investigation.

Contact DC Jason Kingdom at Bridgend CID on 101 or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555111 and quote reference 62130188206.

Sisters are doing it for themselves!

THE food co-operative in Brackla has been relaunched by two enthusiastic local residents with support from the Rural Regeneration Unit.

Sisters Jenny and Jane Jones wanted to see the food co-op return to Brackla as access to fresh fruit and vegetables locally was very low.

The sisters are "very excited" to be relaunching the co-op, Jane is a mother of four and Jenny of two.

"I feed my whole family on the produce from the food co-op and any leftovers are fed to Max our border collie," said Jenny.

"I have just done a cost comparison for the fruit and it works out at more than twice the price at the local supermarkets."

The not-for-profit food co-ops are open to all members of the public. They are volunteer-led and designed to run without any form of funding after the initial support, they receive from Food Development Workers of the Rural Regeneration Unit.

One of the customers, Cara Rees, brought along her seven-month-old daughter Eden to the co-op.

She said: "It is amazing, the produce lasts for ages and it is great for weaning babies as they get to try different tastes, and you can plan you meals around what comes in the bags."

The co-op runs from Brackla Community Centre every Thursday 10.30am-11.30am. Jenny and Jane are looking for volunteers to help run the co-op. For more information, call 07796 441779. **RR**

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Bearback Riders saddle up for a new cycle challenge in America!

FOLLOWING the success of the Velindre California Bike Rides last September, a brand new bike adventure will be officially launched today on American Independence Day (the Fourth of July) at the Mochyn Du in Cardiff.

After previously conquering the west coast of America by cycling from Yosemite to San Francisco, Vale-based Bearback Riders are saddling up the East Coast Bike Challenge with a 515km ride in five days from Boston to New York in September 2014.

The ride will begin in the capital of New England and one of America's oldest cities – Boston – and then travel through colonial villages, rolling hills and seaside towns along the Atlantic coast. After five days of gruelling cycling, the ride will finish by crossing the iconic Brooklyn Bridge in New York.

Julian Hitchcock of the Bear Hotel, Cowbridge, said: "We had an amazing time in California last September, a really tough ride made worthwhile because the Bearback Riders, consisting of Geoff and Isabel Graham, Paul and Caroline Hole, Marianne and Louise England and Esther, Freddie and Lydia Hitchcock and me, managed to raise nearly £50,000 for Velindre.

ABOVE: The Bearback riders now aim to conquer east coast USA.

"This new route looks equally, if not more of a challenge, so the Bearback Riders will ride again!"

Andrew Morris, head of fundraising at Velindre, said: "Interest in the East Coast Bike Challenge has been incredible – we can take 50 cyclists on each ride and the first one has filled already! We are now signing up cyclists for the ride from September 16-23, and if anyone would like to find out more, they can join us at the launch next Thursday, just call Velindre on 02920 316211 to register."

Former Welsh rugby star, Mike Hall, who has completed the Captains' Climb of Kilimanjaro and the California Bike Ride, said: "Last year's ride was an amazing experience and I'm really looking forward to meeting new riders at the launch next Thursday.

"The itinerary for the East Coast Bike Ride looks like another serious challenge and just like last year, we will be hosting a specially themed Gala Ball, which completely sold out at the Cardiff City Stadium – it was a great night and raised an enormous sum."

The first ride will be led by Welsh rugby legend, Jonathan Davies, who has again decided to don his cycling shorts.. He said: "The California Bike Ride was supposed to be a one off. I was celebrating a special birthday and wanted to use the occasion to raise funds for Velindre, where I'm president. I led the bike ride, along with and Martyn Williams and Mike Hall, and we ended up with over 50 riders.

"The whole event was an absolutely fantastic experience, very tough cycling but with great company and most importantly of all we raised an enormous sum for Velindre. So when I saw this new itinerary for the Boston New York Ride, it looked so good that I thought – why not!"

The East Coast Bike Challenge is a 515km ride from Boston to New York on September 8-15 and 16-23, 2014. The entry fee for the Ride is £200, and participants will be required to raise a minimum of £5,000 in sponsorship.

For further details, contact: info@velindrefundraising.com, or ring 029 2031 6211, www.velindrefundraising.com.

Charity concert will be in memory of Ray Murray

AN evening of choral singing in Cowbridge tomorrow (Friday, July 5) will be held in memory of a popular local man – Ray Murray.

Prostate Cymru's inaugural choral night will be an evening of high quality music and song – dedicated to Ray, who was the charity's founder and chairman.

The Bridgend Male Choir will join Pendoylan School Choir in Cowbridge Leisure Centre to perform a range of songs, from classic Welsh hymns to music from the shows.

A spokesman for Prostate Cymru said: "All the money from the concert goes towards funding the Green Light Laser equipment at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, and to fund robotic surgery in Wales."

The charity Glaze was formed by Ray and Lyn Murray, and Andy Thomas, its trustees, 10 years ago and has raised more than half a million pounds.

This was to bring Green Light Laser surgery to Wales, as the technique made a huge difference to men needing surgery to reduce the size of an enlarged prostate.

Glaze has now been incorporated into Prostate Cymru and a small team of dedicated ambassadors raise money in various ways.

Prostate Cymru is also campaigning to bring robotic surgery to Wales – a technique that makes a difference to operations for prostate cancer.

At the moment, men in Wales who need such surgery have to have it in England, and pay £13,000! Men in England can get it free on the NHS.

The spokesman said: "Sadly, Prostate Cymru's chairman Ray Murray passed away last month. The charity thought it appropriate to mark his hard work and dedication over 10 years, by renaming the concert the 'Ray Murray Inaugural Concert'.

"Ray worked tirelessly for the charity over the past decade, starting it in the front room of his house and making it a body with national recognition."

The show at Cowbridge Leisure Centre aims to raise cash for the charity but is also a 'Bon Voyage' for 13 intrepid explorers who are heading to South America to conquer its highest summits.

Led by charity trustee, Andy Thomas and former Welsh internationals Bob Norster and Eddie Butler, they will be climbing five volcanoes in Ecuador – to raise funds for Prostate Cymru.

The hikers who will also climb, Chimborazo, Ecuador's highest mountain – which towers 21,000 feet!

The spokesman added: "Bob and Ed have faced many southern hemisphere challenges on the pitch – but this will see them take southern hemisphere danger to a new level."

Bridgend Male Choir is conducted by Rhiannon Williams-Hale, and the Pendoylan Church in Wales Primary School Choir is conducted by Debra Jones.

The evening promises to provide a feast of music by amateur singers with a professional touch. Tickets are available at HSBC and Xantippe, Cowbridge, and The News Shop and Porters Estate Agents, Bridgend, priced £7 and £4.50 for seniors and children under 15.

Donations to Prostate Cymru can be made by visiting the website www.prostatecymru.com

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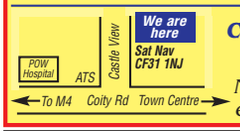

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Out and About with The GEM

Rhws Primary summer fayre

A SUMMER fayre will take place this Friday, July 5, from 3pm-6pm at Rhws Primary School.

There will be a disco, bouncy castles, face painting and tattoos, so plenty to keep the children occupied while you chill out and enjoy a refreshing glass of Pimms or wine. Browse the many stalls and enjoy a tasty burger or hot dog.

Proceeds from the fayre will go towards buying ten mini iPads for the children to use in the classrooms.

Plaid advice

RESIDENTS are invited to attend an advice surgery to discuss any council issues or concerns by Couns Dr Ian Johnson, Steffan Wiliam, Nic and Shirley Hodges, joined by the Barry Plaid Cymru team at the County Library, King Square, Barry, from 11am-12pm on Saturday (July 6). No appointments necessary.

A Plaid councillors' coffee morning will be held on July 6 in Lee Hall, Britway Road, Dinas Powys from 11am-noon.

Open University

THE Open University is holding an information day at Cowbridge Library on Saturday (July 6) from 10am-2pm.

For more information, contact www.openuniversity.co.uk/atyourlibrary

Fun day

DINAS Powys Infants School is holding a family fun day this Saturday (July 6) from 1pm-3pm in the school.

Street surgery

INDEPENDENT councillors Richard and Robert Bertin are holding a street surgery between 10am-11am on Saturday, July 6 in the Gibbonsdown Rise area of Barry.

For further information, telephone 01446 736227 or email rjbertin@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Cabinet questions

THE Vale Council's cabinet will hold a community question and answer session in Llandough on Monday, July 8 from 7.15pm-8.30pm, in the Llandough and Leckwith War Memorial Institute.

Floral society

'A Musical Interlude' is the title of a floral demonstration to be given by Margaret Walker of Cheltenham to members and friends of the Barry Floral Society at a meeting to be held on Tuesday, July 9.

The meeting will take place at the St Nicholas Hall, St Nicholas Road, Barry commencing at 2.15pm.

New members are always welcome.

Fibromyalgia Support

THE next meeting of the Vale of Glamorgan Fibromyalgia Support Group is on Tuesday, July 9 (11am-1pm).

Call Gaynor for more details on 01446 733315.

Charity fair

THERE will be a summer fair in the Paget Rooms, Penarth, on Saturday, July 13 in aid of Cancer Research UK, at 10.15am; admission 50p, to include tea/coffee and biscuits. Usual stalls – cakes and savouries, white elephant, preserves, raffle and others.

Scout jumble

THE 1st Dinas Powys Scout Group holds a jumble sale at 1.30pm on Saturday, July 13, at the Scout Hall, Highwalls Road, Dinas Powys. Admission 50p.

Cadstock in the park

FOLLOWING the success of last year's free festival, Victoria Park, Cadoxton, will be rocking again over the weekend of July 13-14 to Cadstock 2013, when 10 bands will be taking to the stage.

The entertainment starts at 1pm on each day, with 'attic/shed rock innovators' Them Dead Beats launching the festival on Saturday, followed by Green Haze – Barry's tribute to Green Day.

Also taking part are The Hindenburgs, Stonehouse, and special guests Eric Unseen.

Sunday kicks off with Seafall, followed by local band Back To November, Outback, and King Paul and the Zeronoughts (with a guest appearance from a famous Barry bass player).

The festival closes with Barry's favourite sons, The Underdogs.

For further information, email jgreatrex@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

Anniversary service

BETHESDA'R Fro with Ebenezer's anniversary service on July 21 at 3pm will be taken by Mr Clive Curtis from Cardiff.

On October 5, Mrs Christine Roberts from Barry will be taking the Harvest Festival service.

'Proud Prams' is back

A CLASS set up to encourage parents in North Cornelly to do more talking and walking with their babies is making a return.

'Proud Prams' sessions are being run for the next two weeks by Bridgend County Borough Council's Flying Start team at Afon y Felin Primary School from July 4 to July 11 between 10am-11.30am.

Flying Start is a Welsh Government-funded initiative which aims to provide support for families in disadvantaged areas to improve children's development, health and wellbeing in preparation for school.

Call Shelly-Ann Scourfield-Jones on 01656 815032 for details.

Ty Hafan winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D781.

- **£2,000: 107954**.
- **The rollover, which now stands at £1,000, was not won this week.**
- **£10:** 2 6 0 7 8 6 , 559206, 350790, 711220, 780223, 377089, 208484, 318969, 391174, 689531, 835086, 434930, 103234, 628481, 149091, 724103, 379559, 332967, 345572, 568171.
- **£5:** 529531, 312588, 237457, 781114, 376921, 333488, 416551, 318021, 777323, 169196, 296114, 147270, 294143, 755749, 874307, 334498, 429769, 755229, 172190, 878307, 257372, 304618, 170330, 542628, 306567, 797951, 401767, 413947, 766861, 196547, 141376, 705065, 168387, 116023, 581036, 816291, 635936, 601302, 255296, 206916, 580234, 788270, 142554, 380204, 795554, 435681, 550265, 126305, 881501, 717831, 144243, 558380, 392133, 102075, 187834, 500719, 757473, 372202, 504156.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

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Evil villain animation is fun for all the family

by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

BEING a villain always seems to be more fun than being the hero. A casual attitude to justice, grandiose evil schemes and a gigantic lair full of all manner of interesting things – what's not to love about that?

That idea was the basis for 2010's *Despicable Me,* which saw arch-villain Gru's plans to steal the moon scuppered by his newfound love for three girls he adopted as part of his nefarious plan.

Huge box-office meant that a second outing was a certainty, and so *Despicable Me 2* hits cinemas, which sees the newly-reformed Gru (voiced by Steve Carell), now a father to the three girls, hired by the Anti-Villain League to work alongside one of their top agents Lucy (voiced by Kristen Wiig) to track down a serum that, in the wrong hands, could have devastating consequences.

Of course, with three girls to look after, and his infamous minions nipping at his heels, the task is anything but straightforward...

Animated sequels, much like their live-action brethren, are notoriously difficult to get right; most of the time, an increase in spectacle and boundary-pushing sacrifices the good feeling generated from a film's first outing.

It is a condition that doesn't affect *Despicable Me 2*, a film that builds on the goodwill of that first outing and, while hardly breaking new ground in terms of its story, builds on it, creating an easily watchable and highly amusing slice of cinematic entertainment.

The selling point of the franchise has been Gru's minions, a gaggle of small yellow characters speaking what sounds like pidgeon French and showing themselves to be severely shorn in the brains department.

If you find these little guys funny, then you'll be more than comfortable here, the film hanging on their actions when the pacing sags, and their antics hit the funny bone square on.

With their slapstick-style comedy, they follow in the tradition of the aliens from *Toy Story* – cute, engaging and hilarious, something that applies to the other characters as well, even if the story doesn't make the most of the potential that's there.

It teases at ideas either unused or underdone – one of the girls' love of violence, Gru's shunning of his previous life as a villain, the lack of a mother in the girls' lives.

The actual story, a predictable one with an espionage tint, is shorn of any surprise or suspense, but carried by the goodwill of the characters, it just about works, and the younger audience will hardly panic about the straightforward 'A to B' nature of the narrative.

The vocal cast are all on top form; Steve Carell, in particular, once again delivering the comedic goods as Gru, with only Kristen Wiig's vocal stylings not quite working as the agent working alongside Gru, feeling flat and a little forced.

The film looks tremendous, the CGI animation giving the film a beautiful visual look accentuated by directors Pierre Coffin and Chris Renaud (who – fact alert! – also voice the minions) with the 3D well worth indulging in, the filmmakers making the most of the extra dimension in some clever ways.

Simplistic story aside, *Despicable Me 2* is a breezy, pleasing film that works for the whole family, retaining the charm that made the first so appealing, it is a wonderful effort.

VERDICT: Hugely amusing and charming, *Despicable Me 2* is a case of a sequel matching its progenitor. While the story is a touch flat and predictable, the comedy and magic of the minions mean that it won't factor too greatly come the end credits (which are worth staying for!). *Recommended.*

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Despicable Me* (2010), *Kung Fu Panda* (2008).

Dancing display

THE annual garden party and dancing display by Moya Vahey School of Russian Classical Ballet and the Ella Morgan School of Russian Classical Ballet, will be held at the Old Hall Gardens, Cowbridge, on Sunday, July 14 at 3pm, when a collection will be made in aid of cancer research.

Hospice fete is back!

SATURDAY, August 3, is a red letter day for the annual garden party and fete at Marie Curie Hospice in Penarth.

There will be entertainment from the New Orleans Parade Band, singing from local children's theatre group, Big Talent, as well as the usual face painting, children's games, a tasty barbecue courtesy of hospice chef Graham White and his team, a raffle with the chance to win some great prizes, and the stalls packed with bargains.

The gate will be opened at 12.30pm and admission is £1 for adults, who will be entered into a lucky programme draw with the chance of winning a mystery prize; children are admitted free.

Deborah Hooper, hospice fundraising assistant said: "Last year, we were sad to cancel the garden party as the hospice was closed during the summer while it underwent a big refurbishment.

"We are thrilled to be organising it this year, as it's such a popular event among the community in Penarth and the Vale of Glamorgan."

Anyone wishing to have a stall or to donate unwanted good quality gifts can call into the fundraising office at the hospice or telephone 02920 426068 or email *deborah.hopper@mariecurie.org.uk*

£2,000 raised for Diabetes support

ALMOST £2,000 was raised for charity at the Vale Hotel, Hensol, at the annual dinner and dance attended by local members of the Building and Engineering Services Association (B&ES).

The £1,915 raised will be donated to Diabetes UK, the nominated charity of B&ES president Sue Sharp.

Cresta Coaches

Day Trips for 2013

Date	Day	Destination	Adult Fare	OAP/Child
06/07/2013	Saturday	Wye Valley & Chepstow	£11.00	£10.00
24/07/2013	Wednesday	Royal Welsh Show (Coach Only)	£12.00	£11.00
25/07/2013	Thursday	Cotswolds Villages - Day Trip	£11.95	£10.95
27/07/2013	Saturday	Weston Super Mare	£12.00	£11.00
03/08/2013	Saturday	Windsor	£14.00	£13.00
06/08/2013	Tuesday	Moreton in the Marsh 'Cotswolds'	£11.00	£10.00
11/08/2013	Sunday	Oakwood Park or Folly Farm (Coach Only)	£9.50	£8.50
13/08/2013	Tuesday	West Midlands Safari (Coach Only)	£14.50	£13.50
17/08/2013	Saturday	Wells & Burnham on Sea	£11.50	£10.95
25/08/2013	Sunday	Drayton Manor (Coach Only)	£15.00	£13.00
31/08/2013	Saturday	Tenby & Saundersfoot	£10.95	£10.00
11/09/2013	Wednesday	Carmarthen Market & Tenby	£ 9.50	£ 9.00
21/09/2013	Saturday	Bicester, Oxfordshire	£14.00	£13.00
12/10/2013	Saturday	Tewksbury & Ross on Wye 'Labels'	£11.50	£10.50
26/10/2013	Saturday	Stratford Upon Avon (Early Xmas Shopper)	£12.95	£11.95
23/11/2013	Saturday	Cheltenham Christmas Shopper	£11.50	£11.00
30/11/2013	Saturday	Worcester Victorian Christmas Fayre	£13.75	£13.00
TBA	Await Date	Caerphilly Medieval Xmas Fayre	TBA	TBA
08/12/2013	Sunday	Bath Christmas Market	£13.75	£12.75
22/12/2013	Sunday	London Xmas Shopping & Sights	£20.00	£19.00

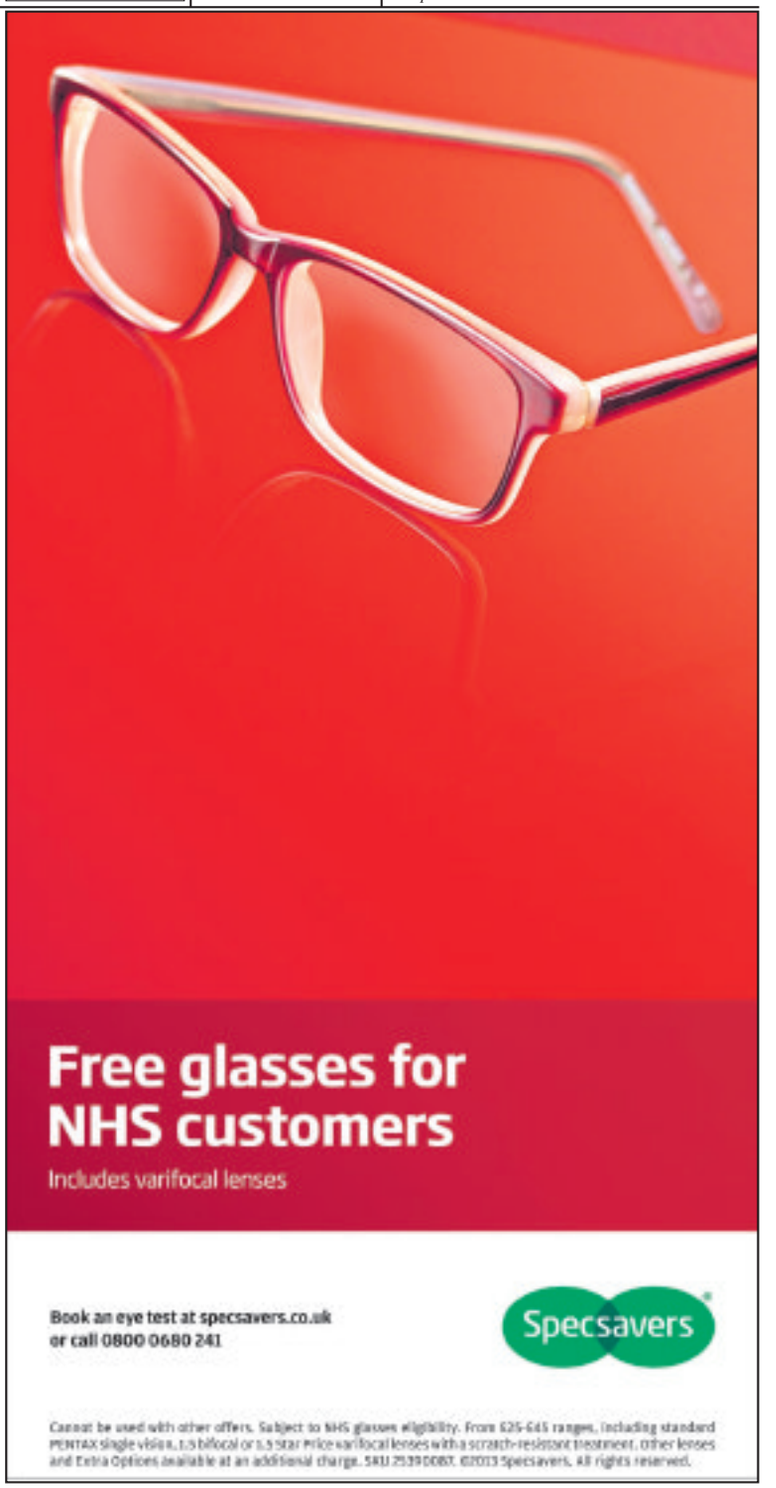
Minimum passenger numbers are required, therefore early reservation is essential.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON OUR DAY TRIPS OR THE HIRE OF COACHES & MINI-BUSES CALL

Cresta Coaches

Telephone 01656 - 660366

or call at Cresta Coaches,
Unit 6, Litchard Industrial Estate, Bridgend, CF31 2AL



Stand by for the Vale Show!

FEW outdoor events in the Vale this summer will rival the thrills and excitement on offer at the Vale of Glamorgan Show.

This large established county show attracts hundreds of trade stands, spectators and exhibitors from all over Britain.

It is a diverse event, attracting an audience of more than 20,000. A wide variety of stalls is set up on the field, with a selection of goods on sale, from luxury cars to small gifts.

There is a craft fair, Cooke & Arkwright food hall, and Birkett LGA shopping mall to house the small trader– while outside, there are more than 250 retail stands with many bars and food outlets.

*There is still time to be included; visit **www.valeofglamorgan-show.co.uk** for more information or telephone **j01446 710099.***

PENARTH TOY AND TRAIN SALE

THE next major collectors' Toy and Train sale at Cardiff will take place on Saturday, July 6, between 10.30am and 3pm at Penarth Leisure Centre, Cogan.

The centre is situated near Cogan Railway Station. The sale attracts about 100 tables and includes many of the leading dealers and collectors from across Wales and also from all over England.

NEXT GREAT SHOW...
CARDIFF TOY & TRAIN SALE
SATURDAY, 6th JULY, 2013
10.30am - 3.00pm
Penarth Leisure Centre, Andrew Road, Cogan, Penarth, Cardiff CF64 2NS
Travel by Train - Cogan Station next to Venue!
BUY ★ ★ SELL ★ ★ EXCHANGE
Many top dealers in Dinky, Corgi, Matchbox, EFE, Lledo, Britains, Hornby Trains, Bachmann, Lima, etc., and much, much more. 100 Tables.
Admission £1.75 - Child/OAP £1.35
Enquiries: 01643 702757 or 07966 694579
www.chrisdyerfairs.co.uk

Should you be saving?

IT is a good idea for most people to have some money put aside for an emergency fund – which may be needed, for example, to repair your car or replace a boiler.

Putting money away regularly would help you achieve this, as well as saving for more pleasurable situations, such as a holiday.

However, before you start saving, you need to consider your finances and whether you can afford to save.

You should think about clearing your debts, especially if the interest costs are higher than you would earn on your savings.

Understand your income and expenses so that you are clear about your budget and how much money you have to spare.

You should also consider your financial protection against death or illness, as well as your pension plans, because if these areas are currently under-funded, it may be more prudent to use your spare funds to improve these areas before you start saving.

Once you have decided to save, the next step is to consider when your savings will be needed in the future, and how much risk you are prepared to take with them, as well as the tax efficiency of your savings plan.

Contact CBK Wales for details of our new service, where you have the choice of advice specifically for your saving needs.

CBK clear and concise financial advice
84 High Street, Barry CF62 7DX
Telephone: 0300 303 8525
www.cbkwales.co.uk
Email: info@cbkwales.co.uk
CBK Wales is a trading style of CBK (Swansea) Ltd which is an appointed representative of TenetConnect Services Ltd which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

GEM ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

In Business Update

VALE OF GLAMORGAN SHOW

Wednesday 21st August 2013
Fonmon Castle Park, Nr. Cardiff Airport
Adults: £10
Senior Citizens £8
Children £5
Family (2+2) £25
Contact: 01446 710099
www.valeofglamorganshow.co.uk
A great day out for all the family!

HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS...

HERE at Thomas Kitchens and Bedrooms, we believe that "*Home is where the heart is*" – which is why we are committed to providing quality products at affordable prices.

In this way, everyone can enjoy the luxury of a beautiful kitchen or bedroom, whatever the budget, or whether it be of a traditional, contemporary or modern design.

With a variety of special offers, flexible design appointments, quality products at competitive prices, a welcoming showroom and over 20 years' installation experience, Thomas Kitchens and Bedrooms can take the strain out of making that dream transformation a reality.

Please call 01656 662665 for friendly, professional advice.

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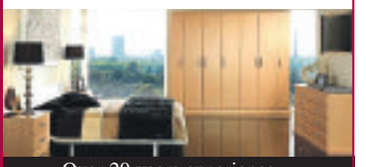
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enquiries@thomaskitchensandbedrooms.co.uk
www.thomaskitchensandbedrooms.co.uk

Cycle safely into summer!

THE summer break is just around the corner, but are your family's bikes ready for the holiday?

Modern life means there's rarely time in the day to take your bikes to get them serviced or fixed, so we operate a free collect and return workshop and mobile repairs service across the Vale to keep you and your bikes fit!

For the summer, Vale Cycling Service is offering special rate multi-bike discounts. You can have three or more bikes serviced at the same time (two kids' bikes, 18" wheel size and under = one bike) from £35 each (parts included).

Contact Vale Cycle Servicing: mobile 07812 033 064 or www.ValeCycleServicing.co.uk.

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Mobile or Collect & Return FREE across the Vale
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07812 033 064
WWW.VALECYCLESERVICING.CO.UK
E: PETER@VALECYCLESERVICING.CO.UK

Festival showcase for adult learning

STAFF and students at Barry Adult Education centres are preparing to showcase learners' achievements at the annual learning festival and exhibition at Palmerston Community Learning Centre, July 8–13.

The festival has been extended to run over the whole week, to allow the public more opportunities to view the exhibition and find out more about courses starting in September.

The exhibition on Monday, July 8, will be officially opened at 6.30pm by Coun Margaret Wilkinson.

It will showcase the achievements of learners attending a wide variety of creative arts and ICT courses at community learning centres in Barry including paintings and drawings, photography, patchwork and textiles, ceramics and glass, upholstery and sugarcraft.

The centre will be open to visitors all week (both daytime and evening). July 9–12 (9.30am-8.30pm) and all day Saturday, July 13 (9.30am-4.40pm).

Throughout the week, there will be a full programme of free taster workshops and demonstrations.

For details, call 01446 733762. Enrolments are being taken for courses commencing in September, and this is an ideal opportunity to drop in for information and advice, see for yourself some of the work produced on the courses, and talk to the tutors.

Adult & Community Learning
Palmerston Learning Festival 2013
Art & Crafts Exhibition
Taster Workshops
Enrolments
Information & Advice about courses in September
ADMISSION FREE
Exhibition Launch Monday 8th July 6.30pm
Open ALL WEEK
Tuesday 9th to Friday 12th July
9.30am - 8.30pm
Saturday 13th July 9.30 - 4.30pm.
Palmerston Community Learning Centre
Tel 01446 733762

Council asking if residents 'can' recycle even more cans!

NEARLY eight billion cans are sold in the UK every year! Potentially, each one could be recycled over and over again, saving energy, raw materials and waste.

Vale recycling crew member Ben Stradling asks that every time you have a drink in this type of container, please make sure you place it in either your blue bag or green co-mingled recycling box.

It really is vital that everyone one of us aims to divert as much material possible from our black bag collections.

Vale Council cabinet member for the environment and visible services, Coun Rob Curtis urges: "Think about other cans you can also include in our weekly kerbside collection service.

"Be sure to add pet food cans, sweet tins, baked beans, pasta, soups and tomatoes – to name but a few. We ask that residents rinse all cans before adding them."

What's in your bin?
Tel: 01446 700111 Email: visible@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk
Our Recycling Team put the SPOTLIGHT ON
Asking if you 'can' recycle more cans...

Ben Stradling
www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/recycle

GEM ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

In Business Update

Emmaus community is getting set for Bridgend

Trustees needed with skills in:

emmaus

- Financial Management
- Social Work
- Legal Affairs
- Marketing/PR
- Human Resources
- Building Management
- Recycling

Contact Justin Horton, Director on **07897 388224**

EMMAUS South Wales is enjoying exciting times with the prospect of opening the first Emmaus community in Wales in Bridgend in 2014.

It will give 23 previously homeless people the chance to come off benefits, live in a community home and work to support themselves and help others.

To fund this, we plan to open another six retail outlets by 2016 adding to the three shops we already have. We need people with the expertise, time and commitment to make this happen. This is an exciting and hugely rewarding opportunity. Training will be given.

See our website emmaussouthwales.org.uk for contact details.

We're here to help you hear!

DO you, or someone you know, suffer from hearing problems, or constant 'ringing in the ears'?

The Hearing and Independent Living Centre is pleased to announce the opening of its newest hearing testing facility within the Barry Eye Centre.

We offer a free hearing test and demonstration of the latest wireless digital hearing systems with one of our fully-qualified hearing professionals.

We also offer the Xino Tinnitus, small and comfortable in-ear devices designed to deliver all day relief from tinnitus (ringing in the ears).

So give us a call, you may not know what you are missing. Free home demonstration available, call 0800 587 2318.

Looking to advertise in over 42,000 newspapers, from Penarth to Porthcawl AND online? Then contact us on 01446 774484 or email: *gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk*

Pupils remember their friend Rosie at strawberry tea

The pink balloons are released.

Report and photograph by KEITH E MORGAN

AN inaugural strawberry tea and balloon release was recently held in the grounds of Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sgêr, North Cornelly, in Memory of Rosie Micha Walters, a former pupil at the school.

A sufferer with a rare illness – Late Infantile Batten Disease – Rosie died on August 20, 2012 following a prolonged illness and fight for life, just 10 days before her seventh birthday.

Batten Disease is a fatal autosomal recessive neurodegenerative disorder which begins in childhood. To-date, there has been very little research carried out on this rare disease and only minimal success has been achieved in its cure after stem cell treatment, the latter only being available in the USA.

Rosie's family have established a charity fund to support the various organisations who helped Rosie and to support other families living with the illness.

As Rosie loved everything pink, especially Peppa Pig (who attended the event), staff and pupils at the school, all came dressed for the part in pink on the day

Everyone also sported a pink balloon, each labelled with a name and address, ready for a mass release to set the strawberry tea in motion.

Mrs Rhiannon Dixon, headteacher, invited Coun Megan Butcher, chair of the school governors, to launch the strawberry tea and balloon release. Coun Megan Butcher began by reading to the children, staff and onlookers present, a moving statement from Michelle and Mike Walters, the parents of Rosie:

"Mike and I would like to make our sincere apologies for not attending the strawberry tea in our daughter Rosie's memory today. We have both thought long and hard about attending, but feel in all honesty it is too soon after her passing and being at the school, seeing the children and talking to staff and parents would be far too difficult for both of us.

"We have so many memories of Rosie at the school, lots of happy memories but, also some difficult and hard memories, such as the decision we made to move her from Sgêr to Heronsbridge when her illness, as yet undiagnosed, made attendance impossible. Rosie was very happy at Sgêr when she was well, she talked of her school friends with love and was equally fond of her teachers.

"When Rosie passed away, we made the decision to open a charity account from the money that was donated so generously at her funeral.

"We gave out over £900 to Sgêr, Heronsbridge, Ty Hafan and Cylch Meithrin y Sgêr, all of which we know was gratefully received.

"Since that time, we have been given more money as people have heard of the charity account. This money has come in from sources such as British Airways staff at BAMC Cardiff, AMMS in Pyle (where Aimee and Ellie Evans' father works and where he did a sponsored head and beard shave), St Illtyd's Church, Bridgend, (where the congregation donated money in place of sending one another Christmas cards – this was a huge surprise!).

"Again this year, whatever money is in the account, we will be dividing and sending out to others in Rosie's memory. People's kindness and generosity have left us feeling incredibly moved and humbled by the sheer thoughtfulness of others.

"Thank you all for attending the strawberry tea today in our daughter's memory. We hope that you all have a wonderful afternoon and that the children enjoy the strawberries and cakes provided.

"We would like to thank the PTA and school for arranging the tea and for the hard work that they do. We will always have fond memories of Sgêr and of Rosie's time there.

"Once again, our sincere apologies for not attending, but please know that you will all be in our thoughts this afternoon.

"Much love from Michell, Mike, Alexandra, Adam and Rosie."

Four teachers who had taught Rosie released their pink balloons before calling up each class in turn to mass release their balloons..

(*See pictures above*).

ABOVE: Mrs Rhiannon Dixon, headteacher (with the teachers' balloons) and Coun Megan Butcher, chair of the school governors.

Rosie Micha Walters

MP visits care home

BRIDGEND MP, Madeleine Moon, attended an open day at the Albert Edward Masonic care home, in Porthcawl recently.

She joined the painting session and spent time talking to residents and staff: "Madeleine, who previously worked as a social worker and care home inspector prior to her move to politics was very knowledgeable," a spokesperson reported.

"John E Morgans is our resident artist and comes monthly to paint with our residents. This is one of our most popular events here at the home and most of the scenes painted are from the local area such as Castell Coch.

"We work very closely with the charity Music in Hospitals who arranged for Heather Jones to perform at the home during the afternoon the residents thoroughly enjoyed this performer who played a range of tunes from Bob Dylan to classical Welsh.

"Lastly, Tim Jones, son of resident Bernard Jones currently home from Hong Kong, put on an impromptu performance for residents. Tim kindly performs for the residents each time he is home."

Community fun day is a great success

COMMUNITY NEWS from **KENFIG HILL AND PYLE**
by ***Richard Sims***
Telephone: 01656 746840
Mobile: 07802 439679
E-Mail: richardsims@talktalk.net

FOLLOWING a week of festivities, the 'Kenfig Hill and Pyle Community Fun Day' ***(not the 'Rugby Club Fun Day' as incorrectly headlined in a rival newspaper last week)*** **surpassed all others from previous years.**

With all the mini marquees, the Croft Goch field looked as if it had been prepared for a jousting tournament during the days of Robin Hood.

Although the day didn't start well, with the Neath ATC Cadet Band pulling out the previous day and the Blue Delta's Jazz Band (who were to march in front of the festival Queen Parade) failing to turn up, it turned out to be most spectacular ever, and it was a treat to see everyone enjoying themselves.

The decent weather brought out a record crowd for this event, which not only put a smile on the organisers' faces, but also those who took part.

On the field, there were 30-plus classic cars from the Skewen Classsic Car Club, street dancing from the Varsity Group, a falconry display, a mini rugby tournament, a display of Tang So Doo, cheerleaders, a rifle range, a giant bouncy castle, a merry-go-round, while the brave had a go on the waterslide provided by the local fire service.

With everyone doing well on the day for their respective organisations or charities, there were happy faces behind the tables in the white mini marquees which were occupied by people from Bethel Community Church, KPC, the Air Cadets (Kenfig Hill Squadron), the Talbot Craft Club, Pisgah Chapel, the Labour Club, the Talbot Community Centre, the Scope Centre, Shout, the Sweet Shop, Bridgend Carers' Centre, St Theodore's Church and particularly on the face of Cynffig Comprehensive sixth form pupil, Daniella Dykstra, who was raising money for the Charity 'Make a Wish'.

The Ogmore Valley Silver Band played throughout the afternoon to entertain in the tea tent run by the Girl Guides.

The classic cars were a big draw on the day, bringing back happy memories to many of the older residents in the village.

It was a difficult decision to pick a festival winner, however, it finally went to David Langrish of Kenfig Hill with his 1958 Ford Thames Van.

All shops in Kenfig Hill and Pyle were invited to take part in festival week by decorating their shop windows and shop fronts. After looking at the shops, Mrs G Whittington, an independent designer, chose two for the final consideration and they were Theo's Community Shop and Arlene's Florist, as both shops were eye catching and colourful and had made a lot of effort.

She said that she finally chose Theo's Community Shop, as they had made imaginative use of their stock with a complementary colour scheme and also creative use of recycled bottle tops to make pictures, reflecting their recycling ethos.

Mrs Whittington said that Theo's was a bold block display of summer colours that visually enhanced the street scene.

The community council must be congratulated for hosting the festival week. However, many thanks must go to Coun Gina Hooper, chair of the festival committee, Harold Phillips, clerk to Pyle Community Council and members of the committee, in particular, Jean Connolly, Caroline Little and Karen Evan, for all their time and hard work in organising such a colourful and entertaining week.

I am sure everyone in the village appreciates their efforts.

ABOVE (left to right): Con Gina Hooper, chair of the festival committee; David Langrish, winner of the classic car show: and the Mayoress of BCBC, Coun Pauline James

ABOVE: The Festival Queen with her attendants.

£70 in the bucket for the Guide Dogs

Left to right: Guide Dog owner Ros Jeffreys with Iris, Jane Hawkins (branch secretary) and Norah Clarke (branch organiser).

THE Bridgend branch of Guide Dogs Cymru took part in a bucket collection at Tesco, Cowbridge Road, Bridgend, last week and collected £700.49.

Branch organiser Norah Clarke said: "Our branch would like to thank Tesco for allowing us to collect at their store and we would like to thank everyone who contributed such a fantastic amount to Guide Dogs.

"Each partnership of owner and Guide Dog costs in the region of £50,000 and the Guide Dog organisation receives no Government funding, so we are very grateful to members of the public who give so generously."

RENTAL CERTS
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Fully accredited Property Lettings for the Vale...

Our property management fees are 5% per monthly rental income - YES, fixed at 5%

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ARLA
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WHO WANTS TO BUILD WHAT AND WHERE?

*Mrs Karen Gregory – **6 Alyson Way, Pencoed** – Remove Ash tree from rear garden.*

*Mr Simon Richardson – **Trecco Bay Holiday Park, Porthcawl** – Programme of works to various trees within site.*

*Tesco Stores Limited – **Brewery Lane, Bridgend** – Erect 21 various signs including directional signs, tablet, window vinyls and ATM signs.*

*The estate of Mr R Dunlop – **Llangewydd Court Farm House, Rogers Lane, Llangewydd** – Certificate of lawfulness for an existing use as a dwelling house.*

*Mr R Carmody – **6 Kenfig Mews, off 11 High Street, Kenfig Hill** – Retrospective consent for one four-bedroom dwelling.*

*Mr R Evans – **67 Heol Fach, North Cornelly** – Erect two-bed bungalow in rear garden (outline application).*

*Mr Richard Michael – **75 King Edward Street, Blaengarw** – New garage and store off rear lane.*

*Mr Michael Heanue – **Land adjacent 3, Mill Lane, Bridgend** – Construct new detached house and garage.*

*Dinbarth Community Garden – **Land rear of Glyn Street, Ogmore Vale** – To develop the ground into a communal growing area with raised beds and fencing.*

*Les Parslow – **Llangewydd Farm Buildings, Llangewydd** – Amendments to approval 04/258 including removal of gable end and spine walls, reconstruct new foundation and internal works.*

*Mr White – **Plot 59 Carreg Erw, Parc Derwen, Coity** – Proposed alteration of approved dwelling to include rear conservatory extension.*

*Mrs M Hornsby – **4 De Turberville Close, Porthcawl** – Replace existing flat roof over garage and porch with tiled hipped pitched roof and enclose front porch.*

*Valleys to Coast Housing – **3,4 and 9 Heol Persondy, Bettws** – External wall insulation including extension.*

*Valleys to Coast Housing – **2 Bryn Awelon, Bridgend** – External wall insulation including verge extension.*

*Mrs Ann Ablett – **Plot 173, Carreg Erw, Parc Derwen, Coity** – Proposed alteration of approved dwelling to include rear conservatory extension .*

*Brackla Tabernacle Apostolic Church – **Whitethorn Drive, Brackla** – Extension to main meeting hall at front and additional small hall at rear.*

*Mr Gwyn Richards – **17 Cae Ganol, Porthcawl** – Extension to form new utility room.*

*Mr and Mrs J Hodges – **Redroofs, Bryneglwys Avenue, Porthcawl** – Rear single storey and side two storey extensions; re-submission of refusal P/12/813/FUL.*

*Mr N Parker – **171 New Road, Porthcawl** – Single storey rear extension.*

*Mr and Mrs David John Williams – **Felindre Mill, Pencoed** – Two storey extension to extend farmhouse for guesthouse (maximum six persons) including refurbishment.*

*Greenhill Construction Limited – **Former Maesgwyn Hospital, Highland Avenue, Bryncethin** – Relax condition 13 of P/11/798/FUL to omit the provision of a pedestrian crossing on Blackmill Road.*

*Mr Denver Rees – **7 Llangwm Way, Porthcawl** – Construct new porch to front of property.*

*Mr Paul Dix – **Ty-Hedref, St Brides Road, Aberkenfig** – Two storey side extension.*

*Mr Don Tickner – **1 Locks Court, Porthcawl** – Outline application to construct new dwelling.*

*Ms Linda Stolzenberg – **Pentyla, Derllwyn Road, Tondu** – Construct utility/store, porch/WC and balcony.*

*Mr Darren Lingley – **25 St Brides Road, Aberkenfig** – Two storey extension.*

*Tesco Stores Limited – **Brewery Lane, Bridgend** – Installation of seven timber trolley bays.*

GIG CYMRU NHS WALES | Together for Health: South Wales Programme | Law yn Llaw at Iechyd: Rhaglen De Cymru

Ymgynghoriad ynghylch dyfodol gofal newydd-anedig a mamolaeth dan arweiniad meddygonymgynghorol; gwasanaethau cleifion mewnol plant; a meddygaeth frys (damweiniau ac achosion brys) i dde Cymru a de Powys

Rhaglen De Cymru

A consultation about the future of consultant-led maternity and neonatal care, inpatient children's and emergency medicine (A&E) services for South Wales and South Powys

The South Wales Programme

DWEUD EICH DWEUD

Mae'r ymgynghoriad yn para tan **19 Gorffennaf 2013.** Lleisiwch eich barn drwy gwblhau'r holiadur yn:

www.opinionresearch.co.uk/rhdc

Consultation runs until the **19 July, 2013** Have your say and complete the questionnaire at:

www.opinionresearch.co.uk/swp

HAVE YOUR SAY

Am ragor o wybodaeth:

www.wales.nhs.uk/swp/hafan
0300 083 0020
(peiriant ateb 24 awr)
swpresponse@wales.nhs.uk

For further information:

www.wales.nhs.uk/swp
0300 083 0020
(24 hour answer phone)
swpresponse@wales.nhs.uk

Cyfarfodydd yn ardal Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Abertawe Bro Morgannwg:

Dewch i Ddweud Eich Ddweud
Ein cyfarfod ymgynghoriad cyhoeddus nesaf:

Dydd Llun, **8 Gorffennaf**

Clwb Criced Tondu,
6.30 pm – 8.30 pm

Heol Bryn, Tondu.
CF32 9EB

Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board Area Meetings:

Please Come And Have Your Say
Our next public consultation meeting is:-

Monday, **8th July**

Tondu Cricket Club,
6.30 pm – 8.30 pm

Bryn Road, Tondu.
CF32 9EB

Am restr lawn o'r cyfarfodydd, ewch i http://www.wales.nhs.uk/SWP/hafan/public-events
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Sylvia

Peacefully on 25th June at Brocastle Manor Care Home. Sylvia, devoted wife of the late James and much loved mum of Trevor.

Funeral service at St Athan village church, Friday 5th July 11.00 am. Flowers may be sent to W James & Sons, Funeral Directors, Fonmon.

HARRIS
Beatrice

Peacefully on the 27th June 2013 at her home in Llantwit Major, Beatrice, beloved wife of the late Edmund (Eddy) and devoted mother of Gwilliam, Lulu, Muriel, Susan, Nicholas, Nigel, Ann and the late David and Brian.

She was a loving grandmother and great grandmother and will be sadly missed by her family and friends.

Resting at W.A. Brown & Son, College St, Llantwit Major until the funeral service in St.Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major on Friday 5th July at 10.30am, followed by interment at Boverton Cemetery.

Flowers may be sent to the Funeral Home.

DAVIES
Elizabeth Mary

Following many years of illness, bravely borne, Mary, aged 79 years, passed away peacefully at Llandough Hospital on 30th June. Beloved wife of Graham, dearly loved mother of Robert, Richard and Cathryne and devoted grandmother of Nicholas, Isabelle, Miranda, Rebecca, Bethan, Ellie and Thomas. She will be sadly missed.

Funeral Service at St John the Baptist Church, Llanblethian on Tuesday, 9th July at 12 noon, followed by private service at the Crematorium. Family flowers only.

WILLIAMS
Gloria Ethel

Suddenly, but peacefully on 25th June 2013, Gloria of Llantwit Major.

Dearly loved wife of Colin and a much loved mother of Susan, Colin, Diane and the late Tony. She was a respected mother in law of Ben, Peter and Sonia, also a loving grandmother and greatgrandmother who will be sorely missed by her family and friends.

Funeral service on Tuesday 9th July in Coychurch Crematorium at 11.00.a.m.

Enquiries to W.A.Brown & Son. 01446 792489

JOHNSTON
John George

Peacefully at Holme Towers, Penarth after a short illness on June 24th, George of Youldon House, Dinas Powys. Dearly beloved husband of the late Marjorie, much loved dad of John and Wendy. Adored grampa of Matthew, Daniel, Bethany, Mandy and Shelley, great-grampa Georgie of Jade, Eve, Orla and Poppy. Loving brother of Ronnie.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry until his Funeral Service in the Chapel on Friday, July 5th at 2pm, followed by cremation at the Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry at 3pm. Family flowers only, but donations in lieu of flowers to Marie Curie Cancer Care, Bridgeman Road, Penarth, CF64 3YR.

BROWN
Nerys Alwena

Peacefully at the Barry Hospital on June 30th, Nerys of Porth-y-Castell, Barry. Dearly beloved wife of Albert, much loved mami of Dafydd and Owain, daughter of Olwen and her late father Glyn of Rhydymeudwy Farm, Llanelidan, sister of Geraint, Bethan and Ioan.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son, Tynewydd Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry until her Funeral Service in the Chapel on Monday, July 8th at 1.15pm, followed by cremation at the Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry at 2.15pm. Family flowers only, but donations, if desired, to Velindre Cancer Centre Fundraising, Velindre Hospital, Whitchurch, Cardiff, CF14 2TL.

WHITELEGG
Eileen

Bill, Paul, Helen and the family would like to thank all the many colourfully attired friends who attended the celebration of Eileen's life at St Illtyd's Church on the day of the Summer Solstice and Reverend Huw Butler's kind and thoughtful words.

We are so grateful for the kindness and support we have been shown and for the many, many cards and messages of sympathy received.

In particular, we would like to thank all those friends and neighbours who supported Eileen both in healthy times and through her long battle with dementia. Bill and Eileen valued your help enormously.

Also our special thanks go to all those in the support organisations including: Dr Anna Foreman and the staff at the Eryl Group Practice; the Wednesday congregation at St Illtyd's Church; the Gathering Place, St Athan, where mum went on Mondays; Louise McCarthy at Social Services; all the carers from Vale Care, they really came through for Eileen each and every day; the staff on Ward 2 at Bridgend Hospital and all those at Milsom House where she spent her final days so gracefully and received such great care.

How can we thank you all? We will be forever grateful for your kindness and support.

Finally, our thanks to St Athan Golf Club for organising Eileen's reception, as an ex-ladies captain she would have been so pleased, and also to Alan Pacey at Adams Funeral Directors whose manner, compassion and expertise once again helped us through such a difficult time.

She may be gone, she will not be forgotten.

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Barbara & Ken Walker

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Store planning big collection to feed the needy in Bridgend

ABOVE, The launch of the 'Help Feed People in Need Appeal' at Tesco Extra Store, Cowbridge Road, Bridgend. Included in the photograph are: Huw Cowell (Tesco store manager); John Chapman (trustee Bridgend Foodbank); Coun Jeff Tildesley, and Ms Nikki Elward, community champion at the store.

CUSTOMERS at Tesco Extra in Waterton, will be urged to donate food to help local people in need this Friday and Saturday.

Staff will be joined by volunteers from Foodbank's charity, the Trussell Trust, and food redistribution charity, FareShare, as well as members of the Tesco Retired Staff Association, to help customers donate food for the "biggest ever food collection in Britain."

Customers will be given a special selected shopping list when they enter the store and will be asked to pick up an item of food, such as long-life milk, cereal, tinned food, tea and coffee, before donating the item at the end of their shop.

The food will then be distributed to the local Bridgend Foodbank depot, before being given to local people in times of crisis.

Huw Cowell, the store manager, said: "Our customers were incredibly generous when we held our last food collection in December 2012, so we're hoping to collect an even bigger total this time around.

"All our colleagues and volunteers from the Bridgend Foodbank are really looking forward to the collection, as it gives us a real opportunity to help local people who are in need."

Tesco held its first national collection in December last year, raising the equivalent of 2.4 million meals.

The retailer will be topping up total donations by a further 30 per cent. All of its store in the region will be taking part in the collection.

For the first time, Tesco Express stores will also be joining the collection and customers who prefer to shop online will be able to make a cash donation when they shop.

The company will also roll out permanent collection points in some stores so that customers can donate food all the year round.

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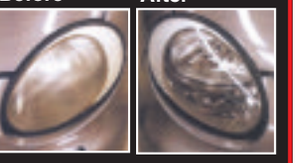

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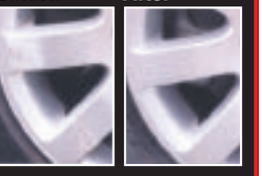

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New bus service will improve transport links

A BUS service connecting Llantwit Major with Barry and Bridgend, is set to be extended, following talks between the Vale Council and a commercial operator.

From Saturday, July 20, New Adventure Travel is extending its existing hourly bus service 303, which currently runs from Bridgend through to Llantwit Major, Monday to Saturdays, to Barry.

At Barry, passengers can connect with the train offering an option to travel onward to Cardiff.

The council and New Adventure Travel have also secured the continuation of the 303 (Bridgend to Barry) bus service on Sundays, which connects directly to the 304 (Barry to Cardiff) bus service from Barry to Cardiff.

The two-hourly service operates from Bridgend via Ogmore by Sea, Southerndown, Wick, St Donats Llantwit Major, St Athan and Rhoose, through to Cardiff.

The Vale Council, with assistance from Sewta and the Welsh Government, is providing financial support to New Adventure Travel for the two services.

Council cabinet member, Coun Lis Burnett said: "I am delighted that we have been able to work with New Adventure Travel to secure this excellent commercial addition to our supported network of bus services – and would ask people to use the service as much as they can to ensure its success."

New Adventure Travel managing director Kevyn Jones said: "We have worked with the Vale Council and Cardiff and the Vale College to ensure the service will offer reliability, high quality wheelchair access low floor vehicles and great value for everyone who wishes to use it."

The Vale AM, Jane Hutt commented: "It is good news that the Vale Council has worked with New Adventure Travel to secure this service."

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School choirs perform at Llys Ton residential home

Photographs by Keith E Morgan

ABOVE: Mynydd Cynffig Junior School Choir arriving at Llys Tôn with headteacher Mr Neil Davies and Miss Kathryn Brace, music teacher

THANKS to the efforts of Mrs Gretta Rogers, chair of the school governors of both Mynydd Cynffig Infants and Mynydd Cynffig Junior Schools, children's choirs from each school visited Llys Tôn residential home, Kenfig Hill, to sing for the residents – as part of Kenfig Hill and Pyle Community Council Festival Week.

There was a good turn out of residents at the home and the children were given a resounding ovation.

Mynydd Cynffig Infants School Choir is pictured at Llys Tôn.

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Vale Seconds 'wilt in heat'

VALE Seconds travelled to Croesyceiliog with only 10 men and a number of young faces in the side.

With the sun beating down, stand in skipper Mark Francis lost the toss and Vale were asked to field.

The skipper and Harrish Kannan bowled good opening spells with Kannan striking in his first over as 15-year-old Matthew Harper took a good catch behind the stumps.

The change bowling saw the introduction of Tom Taylor and Will Lloyd but the second wicket partnership was beginning to build a sizeable partnership although Vale weren't helping themselves as they twice put down Webber. Young under-16 Wales player L Kear was strking the ball fluently and Vale began to wilt in the heat.

Taylor finally struck in the 25th over ending a 131 run partnership bowling Webber for 52. As the Vale youngsters were introduced to the attack they found life hard going on the good wicket as 166 runs were conceded in 18 overs.

However, 13-year-old Angus James took his first wicket for the senior sides as another youngster, 15-year-old Luke John, held a catch at short mid wicket.

L Kear completed a fine century but when on nelson the bogey struck as he hit a catch to Luke John at mid-on which was well held off the bowling of Will Lloyd.

Luke John returning for a second spell finally got a wicket as Kannan held a good catch at long off to remove G Webber for 57.

Croesyceiliog had amassed 300-5 off their 45 overs. The Vale bowling figures were Mark Francis 9-1-44-0, Harrish Kannan 9-2-46-1, Tom Taylor 9-0-38-1, Will Lloyd 8-0-67-1, Luke John 7-0-72-0 and Angus James 3-0-27-1.

Vale were short on batting so a more realistic target was to achieve some batting points and Francis knew a lengthy stay from him was required.

Things started well for Vale as Francis and Taylor put on 49 for the first wicket. The skipper was cutting particularly well and lofted a big straight six. However, the partnership was ended when Taylor was run out by a direct hit.

Although having scored 1 in the 13 overs his stay had provided valuable support to his skipper. Vale then lost a couple of further wickets before youngster Harper and Francis put together a 37 run partnership.

Harper perished hitting in the air but had made a very useful 17. As a cascade of wickets then fell the skipper passed his 50 to try and edge his side to a batting point.

With the last man in the skipper decided it was time to take some chances and after finding the ropes a couple of times was caught on the long on boundary for an excellently made 65.

Young leg spinner A Laasna ended with figures of 4-12 and Vale were bowled out for 123 suffering a 177 run defeat and just failing to collect a batting point.

MF

Students' karate grading success

SEVENTEEN students from the AKAD (Association of Karate and Allied Disciplines) undertook their karate grading recently.

This involved them performing basic techniques (Kihon), pre arranged sparring (Kumite) and a memorised sequence of movements (Kata).

The following grades were awarded: 1st kyu – Deiniol Knight; 3rd Kyu – Phoebe Lewis and Laura Ward; 5th Kyu – Mike Fox, Abi Fox, Felice Cirino, Megan Cirino, Alex Murphy, Hannah Murphy, Jamie Murphy and Sofia Creedon; 6th Kyu – Rebecca Kitt; 7th Kyu – Chris Evans; 8th Kyu – Thomas Firth, Halen Marshall-Carter, Caitlin Evans and Max Evans.

All their hard work over the past few months really paid off on the night, with everyone successful in achieving their new grades.

The club trains on a Monday and Wednesday evening at Ysgol Pen-y-Garth's sports hall (Sully Road) between 6pm–7pm. There is also a training session on Monday evenings between 7pm–8pm for higher grades.

The club's Instructor Stuart Creedon was also presented with his 5th Dan certificate by Kyoshi Colin Jenkins (7th Dan).

For further information, contact Stuart Creedon on 07919 058 069.

SC

Dinas appoints new manager

DINAS POWYS FC has announced the appointment of a new first team manager, Dave Penikett.

Dave is a previous player and captain of the club who played for us for many years, is local to the club and he also coaches within our junior section.

Dave brings a wealth of Welsh League experience with him to the role and we hope he can progress the club in the near future and carry on the previous excellent work of Mark Dunford and Phil Clay.

Dave has outlined his aims and objectives to take the club back to its roots, recruiting as many homegrown players as possible and reigniting the interest around the village for Dinas Powys FC.

Unattached players are welcome to contact Dave on 07816 929727.

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GEM sport

Now Gatland gambles on his tried and trusted for final test

BACK PAGE COMMENT
by Don John

IN what is now a sporting cliché as familiar as the well-worn '*game of two halves*', Sir Alf Ramsey, England's World Cup winning manager in 1966, first coined the tenet – "*never change a winning team*!"

Cliché or no, 47 years on, it remains as true for the oval ball as the round one – so Warren Gatland, the British & Lions head coach, knew the calculated gamble he was taking in making five changes from the first test for the second and penultimate clash with Australia at the Etihad stadium, Melbourne, on Saturday – admittedly, two enforced by injury.

The pragmatic Kiwi asserted: *"It's never about not changing a winning team. It's about picking the best side to do a job for us. Our whole focus is on winning the match, and the series…*"

Given that the Lions had declared they expected another tight, *"brutal"* battle, and were "*prepared to win ugly*", some of the selections, particularly in the front five – lacking the injured Paul O'Connell's formidable presence, or specialist second row cover on the bench to add muscle (no Ian Evans or Richie Gray) were also clearly a gamble.

This was all the more surprising, in light of the tourists' previous problems at the scrum, highlighted once tight head prop Adam Jones had left the field in the first test – and it proved to be the case yet again in Melbourne, though this time it proved more costly, as the tourists slipped to an agonising 15-16 last-minute defeat.

In addition, the axing of combative scrum half Mike Phillips in favour of the smaller, quicker Ben Youngs, caused some surprise, particularly as the conservative game plan called for tight control up front, hence the need to stiffen the weakened pack with the destructive Dan Lydiate.

True, Phillips had not been at his best during the Lions' narrow 23-21 win in the first test, but given the context, his qualities as a 'ninth forward' were missed on Saturday, while Youngs failed to make the expected impact and was substituted by Conor Murray – ironically, a player more in the Phillips mould!

Confusingly, the coach had stated that the Welshman was available for selection, but had been carrying an injury, that his knee was "sore", and they had decided to rest him: "*We felt it was prudent to have him 100 per cent ready for the third test*".

That had left the Lions' camp open to the questionable notion that they were not as confident of clinching the series last weekend as they appeared to be – else why keep their first choice No 9 under wraps for a third match that would have little at stake with mission accomplished?

The selection gamble was soon challenged, as a fired-up Australia predictably targeted a perceived weakness in the tourists' front row, with young loose head prop Mako Vunipola given a torrid time early on.

Even so, it was the Lions who had the first chance to go ahead, full back Leigh Halfpenny's penalty attempt ricocheting off a post – but he made amends minutes later with the first of five successful penalties, after Lions' pressure – including one huge concerted drive that propelled the Wallabies back on their heels.

However, soon the boot was on the other foot, with two penalties awarded in quick succession against Vunipola, which Christian Leali'ifano converted, but then the Lions suddenly won a scrum penalty of their own and Halfpenny struck to level the score.

As infringements mounted on both sides, the Lions lost a line-out when hooker Tom Youngs threw long (something of a rarity on this tour!) but five minutes later, Halfpenny put the tourists back into the lead, only for Leali'ifano to level it again with a well-struck penalty. Almost on halftime, the street-wise Wallabies averted a try under their posts by conceding a penalty, which Halfpenny stroked over, to regain the lead at 12-9 – and 10 minutes after the change-over, he made it 15-9 with a fifth successful penalty.

Then began a desperate rearguard action as the Lions grimly fought to hang onto their six-point margin – with the lure of a historic series victory tantalisingly within their grasp. However, there were shades of recent Welsh misfortunes against the men from Oz, as the embattled tourists faced heartbreak at the death.

With just three minutes left on the clock, their resistance finally broke under a remorseless onslaught, when Australia, having spurned an easy penalty, launched a final attack that saw Adam Ashley-Cooper cross over for a try converted by Leali'ifano to secure a one-point, 16-15, lead.

As the warning hooter went to signal the end of another heart-stopping cliff-hanger, Halfpenny had one last chance with a penalty kick from more than 50 metres – but alas, this time it was not to be.

***"The last thing we want is to be 1-1 going into Sydney for the final test*", Gatland had said before the outset.**

He and the assistant coaches know that the pendulum has now swung away and that is the reality... The Wallabies, who have yet to hit their full stride, go into Saturday's decider with their tails high; while the Lions (minus their inspiring skipper, Sam Warburton) will have to step up several gears from the two earlier test performances if they are to prevail.

• ***As The GEM was going to press yesterday, the team was announced, showing 10 Welshmen in all – and the bombshell dropping of Brian O'Driscoll from the match 23.***
BRITISH AND IRISH LIONS: Leigh Halfpenny (Wales); Tommy Bowe (Ireland), Jonathan Davies (Wales), Jamie Roberts (Wales), George North (Wales); Jonathan Sexton (Ireland), Mike Phillips (Wales); Alex Corbisiero (England), Richard Hibbard (Wales), Adam Jones (Wales), Alun Wyn Jones (captain, Wales), Geoff Parling (England), Dan Lydiate (Wales), Sean O'Brien (Ireland), Toby Faletau (Wales).
Replacements: Tom Youngs (England), Mako Vunipola (England), Dan Cole (England), Richie Gray (Scotland), Justin Tipuric (Wales), Conor Murray (Ireland), Owen Farrell (England), Manu Tuilagi (England).

How's that! Garth Primary hits the opposition for six!

Pictured above are the winning boys and girls from Garth Primary School.

A team of pupils from Garth Primary has shown the England cricket team how it's done ahead of this summer's Ashes series – by having the opposition stumped at the finals of a Bridgend county borough cricket competition held at Porthcawl Cricket Club.

The Llynfi Valley school children bowled over their rival teams of year-4 pupils from Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr, Pencoed Primary and Nottage Primary, following qualifying rounds held in Bridgend, Maesteg, Pencoed and Porthcawl.

The competition, which was run by Cricket Wales and Bridgend County Borough Council, in partnership with local cricket clubs across the county borough, formed part of the council's Active Young People Department's calendar of school sports competitions and events.

Coun Lyn Morgan, Bridgend County Borough Council's cabinet member for wellbeing, said: "Well done to all the schools who reached the finals of the competition, and to Garth Primary for taking the title. All the boys and girls involved displayed some fantastic cricket skills.

"I'm sure the England cricket team could learn a thing or two from them, ahead of this year's Ashes series.

"Our Active Young People Department provides a variety of fun opportunities for children to try new sports. It's important that the department carries on working with partners like Cricket Wales, to continue providing these opportunities in the future."

GOOD WEEK'S WORK FOR THE CAVALIERS

ALMOST 500 runs were scored in an entertaining draw as Llantwit Major Cavaliers entertained unbeaten league leaders Pwll in the South Wales Association Division Four.

The two sides endorsed their reputations as the strongest sides in the section in a fiercely competitive contest with some fine cricket played by both teams.

It was the Llanelli-based Pwll who had the better of it, scoring at a consistently good rate to reach 270 all out in 49.1 overs; but with seven overs to go of their run chase the Cavs were still in with a shout of overhauling the mammoth total.

It was only when bobby off the beat Lewis Collins, batting down the order after absence, fell with the score on 216, that skipper James Snelson sent on the order to batten down the hatches and play out for a draw.

The homesters' innings eventually finished on 219-8 and the result stretched Pwll's lead at the league summit, while Llantwit remain ahead of Baglan in second place.

For the Windmill Lane boys hotelier and workout enthusiast Gareth Hughes starred, taking three important wickets with his swingers before anchoring the run chase with an unbeaten half century.

At the toss Snelson chose to bowl first on a wicket that looked a shade green, but Pwll got off to a good start – aided by a few dropped catches – and were 75 without loss in quick time, but exuberant fielder and Oxford University scholar Ben Jenkins held a fine catch to dismiss danger man Craig Howells.

Pwll contined to score at a solid rate, but each time they threatened to get away the Cavs pegged them back with a wicket. Newlywed Julian Griffiths picked up the important wicket of Howells (40), before Jenkins' off spin claimed three scalps.

There were also wickets for Snelson (8-0-39-3) and Hughes (7-0-3-46), with Chris Cousens mopping up the final wicket after the visitors reached the lofty heights of 270.

The Cavs' run chase got off to the worst possible start when opener Cousens gloved a head-bound bouncer to slip off the very first ball of the innings.

Pwll were cock-a-hoop, but fellow opener Harry Withers (30) and No 3 Snelson (34) steadied the ship with a quick fire partnership of 60, before both were on the wrong end of LBW decisions by an official league umpire, making a rare appearance at Windmill Lane.

Llantwit were still in with a sniff as Griffiths (36) and Hughes joined forces to add 82 for the fifth wicket, but batsmen kept falling at vital times and when Collins, more accustomed to an opening birth, went in at No 8, quick runs were needed.

Eighteen off a handful of balls brought some late fingernail biting among the Pwll fielders with eight overs to go, but when Collins was cleaned bowled by Pwll paceman Rhodri Lewis, the Cavs' hopes of a win were gone. Hughes (52no) and Jonathan Cheal dropped anchor and batted out for the honourable draw.

DMC

CAVS SECONDS WIN

The Cavs 2nd XI managed to get 11 players on the pitch this week for their SWCA League Match at Pwll.

The Cavs were all out for 149 in the 37th over with Jarad Davies (6.1-0-26-5) taking the bowling honours with every other bowler also getting a wicket each.

The Cavs, looking for their second win of the season, took to the field determined to get something out of the game. Pwll lost their first wicket in the 8th over when D Bryant was bowled by Alex Harris (1-28) with the score on 27.

Luke Allison (2-14), Tom Gingell (1 for 10) and Dom Henson (1 – 14) all took wickets with the bowling honours being taken by Dave Cheal (10-1-18-5) with his first five for of the season.

The batting honours went to opener D Daniel (31) and I Daniels (15) who both made notable contributions as Pwll were bowled out for 89 in the 28th over.

DMC